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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 44 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in February 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

This issue has a special focus on populism versus democracy, with think tanks focusing on the rise of far-right populist parties such as *Front National* and *Alternative für Deutschland*. Think tanks concentrate their attention on the state of populism in Europe, the rise of the politics of fear, the collapse of the social contract between citizens and political institutions throughout Europe and the proliferation of authoritarian and exclusionary rhetoric. Our readers can also find books and articles related to populism via the [Library catalogue](#). At the same time, thousands of people participated in [Marches for Europe](#) all over Europe on 25 March, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. They called for a strong, united and democratic Europe, that stands up against nationalism and populism.

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In the 'EU politics and institutions' section readers will find papers on inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU, the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the impact of the EU on national legislation.

The 'Economic and financial affairs' section contains publications on economic and monetary union, European capital markets, and the EU-27 financial system after Brexit. In addition, Oxfam has published a report on the extent to which the top 20 EU banks are using tax havens and in which ways (link to [full report here](#)).

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Readers with a specific interest in France and Germany will find a rich selection of content in the 'EU member states' section, including articles on popular mistrust towards elites in France, Europeanisation of the German system of government and the introduction of the minimum wage in Germany. There is however also a great interest for subjects on other member states, such as the Bulgarian general elections on 26 March, proposals for economic and administrative reforms in Italy, the international position of Spain in 2017 and on why, according to a Bruges Group study, Brexit should be accompanied by Irexit (Ireland exit). Finally a large number of papers are devoted to Brexit and the UK, focusing on the launch of Article 50, the rural economy and care system in post-Brexit Britain and the British business strategy after Brexit. On 29 March, the UK formally triggered the process of Brexit by sending a [letter](#) to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council.

In the 'EU policies' section, think tanks mainly focus on three topics: migration, environment and social policy. On migration, our readers will find papers on migration and asylum challenges in the Mediterranean and on the implications of the irregular migration and refugee situation for official development assistance spending and practices in Europe. Regarding the environment, think tanks pay attention to the EU emissions trading system after 2020, opportunities for cooperation between the EU, China and African countries on addressing climate change and fresh water protection. That section also has a rich selection of articles on social policy and health issues covering women's economic empowerment at international level, the feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefits scheme, labour relations and social dialogue in several EU member states, Europe's obesity challenge and health inequality in the EU.

Under 'Foreign affairs' the wide range of topics include the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), permanent structured cooperation (PESCO), the threat of biological weapons, EU policy on counter-terrorism, world trade and the wave of (American) protectionism. The section also includes articles on food politics in Asia, China's Silk Road, Russian policy towards the US, and on US defence strategy and the rise of China.

Finally, we would like to share [the commentary reports](#) by Institut Montaigne on the proposals made by the main candidates in the French elections. These reports are regularly updated.

The Review can be downloaded from our [blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in April 2017, with papers published in March 2017.

For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of member states. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies / European University Institute

The emerging order of inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU: functional specialization, the EU speakers conference, and the parliamentary dimension of the Council Presidency

by Ian Cooper

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

This paper analyses three trends in inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU. First, there is a growing tendency towards functional specialisation. Second, the EU Speakers Conference has lately consolidated its constitutive role as the body that oversees the creation of other forms of inter-parliamentary cooperation within the EU. Third, more and more inter-parliamentary meetings are held within the framework of the 'Parliamentary Dimension' of the rotating Council Presidency. The argument of this paper is that the collective effect of these three trends has been to rationalise inter-parliamentary meetings within the EU.

Fondation Robert Schuman

European Parliament: redistribution of political balance

by Charles de Marcilly [@Charles2M](#) and François Frigot

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [French](#) (11 p.)

At the mid-term of the 8th legislature, the European Parliament is implementing a traditional "distribution" of posts of responsibility. This article studies the careful balance between nationalities, political groups and individual experience of the European Members of Parliament.

Think Tank Europe

Lobbying in the European Parliament: the battle for influence

by Maja Kluger Dionigi [@MajaKluger](#)

17 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

The European Parliament has become one of the most important lobbying venues in the EU. Based on her new book on lobbying in the EP, the author explains when and how interest groups are influential in the EP. She argues that lobbying success depends on a number of factors, most notably the degree of counter-lobbying, issue salience, and committee receptiveness. These factors are brought together in the framework of 'Triple-I' – interests, issues, and institutions – to determine the success or failure of lobbying.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Regroup and reform - Ideas for a more responsive and effective European Union

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#) and Sophia Russack (rap.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

Members of the European Parliament, former members of the College of Commissioners, the European Council and Council of Ministers, and leading scholars of EU politics and law, came together to share insights into the issues that will decide the future of the EU. The report offers concrete recommendations for how the Union can show added value to European citizens in the areas of security and justice, socio-economics and monetary policy – recommendations that will

help reform the workings of the Union and ensure that it is worthy of the continuing confidence of its members.

The European Public Prosecutor's Office: king without kingdom?

by Fabio Giuffrida

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

In July 2013, the European Commission issued a Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Being the first European body assigned the competence to adopt decisions vis-à-vis individuals in the sensitive field of criminal law, the EPPO could represent a Copernican revolution in the history of EU (criminal) law. This analysis shows that this leap forward has turned out to be quite complicated and questions whether the Office – under the currently envisaged structure and powers – will enhance the fight against crimes affecting the financial interests of the Union.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The future of a more differentiated E(M)U – necessities, options, choices

by Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This paper argues that future EMU reforms will require a higher level of differentiation between Euro and non-Euro countries. However, the creation of a closed core Europe involving merely the "willing and able," which would establish a two-tier Europe with different institutionalised classes of membership, is neither likely nor desirable. It should not be the Leitbild (guiding concept) steering the way towards a more differentiated Europe. The EU and its members should rather adhere to the notion of functional-pragmatic differentiation by applying instruments of differentiated integration foreseen by the EU Treaties.

Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (Center for European Integration Studies)

The impact of the European Union on national legislation

by Tapio Raunio and Matti Wiberg

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

One of the key arguments of the 'leave' side in the Brexit referendum of June 2016 was that 60% or even 75% of British legislation originated in Brussels, not in London. Examining the impact of EU on national legislation in Finland, the article shows that contrary to the widely accepted 'Delors myth', only 17.8% on national laws adopted between 1995 and 2015 were related to the EU. Evidence from other European countries corroborates our findings: the share of domestic laws with an EU impulse is higher in some countries but never even close to the 80% threshold suggested by the 'Delors myth'.

Transatlantic Academy

Political communication in the "fake news" era: six lessons for Europe

by Heidi Tworek [@HeidiTworek](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

How far did the media determine the results of Britain's vote to leave the EU and Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election? To answer the questions of whether, how, and why communications matter, this paper draws together a wide spectrum of research from history,

psychology, and recent political events in Europe and the US. The paper suggests six major recommendations for European politicians as they approach communications in the uncertain world of 2017. Many of these recommendations are most pertinent for elections, but they provide broader perspectives on how communications affect voters' behavior and perceptions.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Alternative ways of global governance: informal institutions and the role of small states

by Katja Creutz [@KatjaCreutz](#)

20 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

In addition to formal international organisations, alternative ways of arranging intergovernmental cooperation are proliferating. One tendency is to create looser structures around a shared purpose often without permanent secretariats. This paper explores the politics of institutional form from the perspective of small states as the toolkit for inter-state cooperation is diversifying. It analyses the development of less rigid forms of cooperation, the reasons behind such a trend, and how the movement towards informality affects small states and their constituencies.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Making the best of Brexit for the EU-27 financial system

by André Sapir, Dirk Schoenmaker and Nicolas Véron [@nicolas_veron](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

As a consequence of Britain's exit from the EU, UK-based financial firms are expected to lose their regulatory passport to do direct business with their clients in the EU-27. Brexit will lead to a partial migration of financial services activities from London to locations in the EU-27 to continue serving their customers there. This brief focuses on the implications of Brexit for the EU-27 financial system.

Hoover Institution

Partial fiscalisation: some historical lessons on Europe's unfinished business

by Michael Bordo and Harold James

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

The British referendum on EU membership, combined with the discussion of a partial Greek exit from the euro has raised in a suddenly acute form the question of the relationship of the EU and the Eurozone. The new acute crisis demands some innovative thinking to preserve – and extend – the central benefits of European integration, while thinking about additional areas that demand a cooperative rather than a confrontational solution. In this paper, after looking at the historical record of fiscalisation (which is mixed), the authors highlight a series of measures which amount to partial fiscalisations, and some of which are currently being discussed.

Bruegel

Brexit and the European financial system: mapping markets, players and jobs

by Uuriintuya Batsaikhan, Robert Kalcik [@RKalcik](#) and Dirk Schoenmaker

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Brexit will lead to a partial migration of financial firms from London to the EU-27. This paper provides a comparison between London and four major cities that will host most of the new EU-27 wholesale market: Frankfurt, Paris, Dublin and Amsterdam. It gives a detailed picture of the wholesale markets, the largest players in these markets and the underlying clearing infrastructure. It also provides data on professional services and innovation.

Fundamental uncertainty and unconventional monetary policy: an info-gap approach

by Yakov Ben-Haim, Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#) and Jan Willem van den End

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

This paper applies the info-gap approach to the unconventional monetary policy of the Eurosystem and so takes into account the fundamental uncertainty on inflation shocks and the transmission mechanism. The outcomes show that a more demanding monetary strategy, in terms of lower tolerance for output and inflation gaps, entails less robustness against uncertainty, particularly if financial variables are taken into account.

Centre for European Policy Studies

One market, one money – A mistaken argument (post factum)?

by Daniel Gros

16 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Why should Europe opt for monetary union? 'One Market needs one Money!' This is, at first sight, the key argument of the influential report by the European Commission entitled "One Market, One Money", published in 1990. But after closer examination of the report, the author considers its rather more agnostic subtitle: "An evaluation of the potential benefits and costs of forming an economic and monetary union" and concludes that the key argument was in fact the other way round: one money would create one market. This article shows that the authors of 1990 did not recognise that 'one money' would foster huge cross-border financial flows that would one day lead to a very costly financial crisis.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The EU's existential threat: demands for flexibility in an EU based on rules

by Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

Deeper integration is on the agenda to complete the monetary union, to get growth back on track, and to rebuild trust in the EU. It will involve a political union with a fiscal capacity, and it will probably turn EU institutions into state-like bodies. Such centralisation might put the integrity of the EU at stake by creating public resistance and a disparity between Euro-ins and Euro-outs. It is also doubtful whether it ensures the long-term competitiveness of the Eurozone. This paper argues that countries unwilling or unable to reform should not demand flexibility on EU-rules, but should instead leave the Union altogether.

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

External monetary shocks to Central and Eastern European countries

by Pierre Lesuisse

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

Few countries are part of the EU but on the verge of the Eurozone. This study aims at identifying the amplitude of the direct ECB monetary policy impact, i.e. the so-called international monetary spill overs, in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs). The use of a panel-VAR (vector autoregressive) method allows to deal with the small time span and endogeneity. The article shows that CEECs tend to significantly converge in monetary terms to the ECB standards. The direct impact on real variables remains relatively weak but contrary to the literature, is significant and in line with expectations.

Les monnaies virtuelles décentralisées sont-elles des outils d'avenir ?

by Ariane Tichit [@ArianeTichit](#), Pascal Lafourcade and Vincent Mazenod [@mazenovi](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (28 p.)

Decentralised virtual currencies can be powerful tools for societal transformation. The authors present the current evolution of crypto-currencies towards new energy aware, community-based, useful and fundamentally innovative protocols. Then, they propose an idea of decentralised money geo-localised melty, which would allow to meet a certain number of limits that are experienced by traditional local currencies.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

cepDefault-Index 2017: Entwicklung der Kreditfähigkeit der Euro-Länder

by Lüder Gerken [@cepGerken](#), Matthias Kullas and Till Brombach

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (40 p.)

According to the cepDefault index 2017, the existence of the Eurozone is still under threat. The cepDefault index 2017 suggests a stronger differentiation of national bond yields and indicates that the creditworthiness of the Eurozone countries varies greatly.

European Capital Markets Institute

Recent developments in European capital markets – Key findings from the 2016 ECMI Statistical Package

by Roberto Musmeci and Apostolos Thomadakis

16 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

This paper presents the key findings reported in the 2016 ECMI Statistical Package, covering the US, Japan, China and all other relevant markets. The Package aims to enable users to trace trends and illustrate the ongoing transformation of capital markets, including the structural changes brought about by competitive forces, innovation and regulation. This paper follows the same structure as applied in the ECMI Statistical Package, and consists of five main sections: equity markets, debt securities, exchange-traded derivatives, over-the-counter derivatives and asset management (mutual funds).

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Value in the commons economy: developments in open and contributory value accounting

by Michel Bauwens and Vasilis Niaros

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.)

Our common world is faced with significant questions regarding the evolution of value. The authors consider the following to be among the most important: What is value, specifically in our 'digitalised', 'networked' societies where emerging knowledge commons are playing an increasingly vital role? In a world of social, cultural and institutional diversity, can a new 'value system' incorporate the multiple values that are not recognised by capitalism, such as the care economy and domestic work? This report does not offer complete answers to these questions, but it looks at how the new commons-based approaches attempt to deal with them.

Institut für Weltwirtschaft Kiel

Investor-state dispute settlement: are arbitrators biased in favour of claimants?

by Peter Nunnenkamp

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

Self-interested and biased arbitrators are often held responsible for the legitimacy crisis of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Based on UNCTAD's (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) database on ISDS since the late 1990s, the authors find no compelling evidence that arbitrators are systematically biased. Moreover, even biased tribunals decide more often in favour of respondent states than in favour of private investors. However, it is harder for developing countries, compared to high-income countries, to fend off claims for compensation, in particular when the presidents of arbitration tribunals are biased in favour of private investors.

Institute for Fiscal Studies/Centre for microdata methods and practice

Estimation of random coefficients logit demand models with interactive fixed effects

by Hyungsik Roger Moon, Matthew Shum and Martin Weidner

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

The authors extend the Berry, Levinsohn and Pakes (BLP, 1995) random coefficients discrete-choice demand model, which underlies much recent empirical work in industrial organisation. They add interactive fixed effects in the form of a factor structure on the unobserved product characteristics, which can be arbitrarily correlated with the observed product characteristics (including price). This accommodates endogeneity, and captures strong persistence in market shares across products and markets at the same time.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Skin-in-the-game in ABS transactions: a critical review of policy options

by Jan Pieter Krahnen and Christian Wilde

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

This paper applies the theory of structured finance to the regulation of asset backed securities. It finds the current regulation in Europe (Article 405 of the CRR) and the US (Section D of Dodd-Frank Act) to be severely flawed with respect to its key intention: the imposition of a strict loss retention requirement. While nominal retention is always 5%, the true level of loss retention varies across available retention options between zero loss retention and full loss retention at the extreme ends. Based on a standard model of structured finance transactions, the article proposes a new risk retention metric RM measuring the level of an issuer's skin-in-the-game.

Estimation and model-based combination of causality networks

by Giovanni Bonaccolto, Massimiliano Caporin and Roberto Calogero Panzica

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (96 p.)

Causality is a widely-used concept in theoretical and empirical economics. The recent financial economics literature has used Granger causality to detect the presence of contemporaneous links between financial institutions and, in turn, to obtain a network structure. Subsequent studies combined the estimated networks with traditional pricing or risk measurement models to improve their fit to empirical data. This article provides two contributions: showing how to use a linear factor model as a device for estimating a combination of several networks that monitor the links across variables from different viewpoints; and demonstrating that Granger causality should be combined with quantile-based causality when the focus is on risk propagation. The empirical evidence supports the latter claim.

Natural disaster and bank stability: evidence from the U.S. financial system

by Felix Noth and Ulrich Schüwer

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

This study explores whether natural disasters affect bank stability. Whether this is the case or not is not obvious. On the one hand, banks are affected because disaster damages immediately reduce banks' collateral values and the credit standing of their borrowers. Further, disaster damages may cause business disruptions and adversely affect economic growth in the banks' business regions. On the other hand, insurance payments as well as public financial aid programs support corporations and individuals in affected regions, and thereby mitigate the shock. Reconstruction activities may even boost economic growth.

International taxation and productivity effects of M&As

by Maximilian Todtenhaupt and Johannes Voget

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

This article investigates the effect of international differences in corporate taxation on the realisation of productivity gains in M&A deals. It argues that tax differentials distort the efficient allocation of productive factors following an M&A and thus mitigate the resulting productivity improvement.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Menschenrechte

Zum Arbeitsprogramm der Regierung betreffend Fußfesseln für "Gefährder innen" sowie "Rückkehrzentren"

10 February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (4 p.)

The Austrian government recently agreed on measures that involve direct interference with individuals' rights to liberty. Amongst others, the so-called "Gefährder" (individuals considered to be a threat to public safety) and rejected asylum seekers are affected. In this paper, these measures are examined from a human rights perspective, exploring the link between the rule of law principle and considerations of public security.

BULGARIA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Outgoing Prime Minister Boyko Borissov wins his wager and also the general election in Bulgaria

by Corinne Deloy

26 March 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.) and in [French](#) (3 p.)

The Citizens for the European Development of Bulgaria (GERB, the party of outgoing Prime Minister (2009-2013 and 2014-2016) Boyko Borissov, came out ahead in the snap election that took place in Bulgaria on 26th March. The head of government therefore won his wager and has asserted himself for the fourth successive time in the ballot box after 2009, 2013 and 2014.

The Bulgarian general election on 26th March might not lead to a majority

by Corinne Deloy

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [French](#) (4 p.)

On 24 January the new President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, elected on 13 November 2016, dissolved the National Assembly (Narodno sabranie) and convened a snap election on 26 March, the third one since 2013. According to political analysts it might not lead to a strong majority able to implement the economic and institutional reform that Bulgaria so badly needs.

Open Society Institute Sofia

Democracy and civic participation - Public attitudes towards democracy, the rule of law and the fundamental human rights in 2016

by Georgi Stoytchev, Alexey Pamporov [@apamporov](#), Petia Braynova and Dragomira Belcheva

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

According to the findings of two nationally representative public opinion surveys conducted by the Open Society Institute, democracy is the best form of government for Bulgaria (49% of the respondents in 2016, 52% in 2015), while the perception that constitutional rights of citizens are effectively protected constitutes the most significant achievement of democratic transition in the country so far. However, the vast majority of people have low confidence in the institutions of

representative democracy, do not participate in decision-making and feel that the government is inefficient in solving the most persistent societal problems.

CYPRUS

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy) / Hellenic American Leadership Council

Is a viable solution in Cyprus feasible?

7 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

After forty years of failed negotiations, it appears the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus managed to register significant progress during the intercommunal negotiations. Although important disagreements remain on issues like governance and territory, the real stumbling block is security and this is one of the issues where decisions are made exclusively in Ankara, not Cyprus.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Institute of International Relations Prague

European strategic autonomy: distant but irresistible

by Michal Šimečka

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

Under pressure from overlapping crises, the EU is embracing a more assertive role in security. The election of Donald Trump has added a further sense of urgency and purpose to this EU defence cooperation as the pursuit of European strategic autonomy is not just a matter of upgrading capabilities, building institutions, or re-calibrating EU–NATO cooperation but also a struggle to re-invent the EU's identity. The Czech Republic emerged as a supporter of this new dynamic, but Prague should do more to back its rhetorical support with tangible commitment and policy leadership.

Czech-German relations: a dialogue in place of strategy, in hope of strategy and in need of strategy

by Benjamin Tallis

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

The Czech-German Strategic Dialogue has been hailed as a significant upgrading of relations between the two countries. However, while it holds great potential, the dialogue mainly covers practical or tactical cooperation and is currently lacking in real strategic content. This deficit reflects a wider lack of strategic convergence between the partners and requires political, rather than bureaucratic action to address it. Doing so will require a larger shift in foreign policy thinking and action, particularly on the Czech side.

FINLAND

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Miksi yritysten investoinnit ovat vähentyneet?

by Jyrki Ali-Yrkkö, Tero Kuusi [@TeroKuusi](#) and Mika Maliranta [@Maliranta](#)

2 February 2017

Link to the article in [Finnish](#) (76 p.)

The topic of this study is the analysis of the development of business investments in Finland and in other countries of comparison on the basis of national accounts, the survey data and a sector-level general equilibrium model.

FRANCE

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Réformer: quel discours pour convaincre ?

by Christophe de Voogd

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (56 p.)

Of all the big western democracies, France is the only one not to have reformed its Welfare State. The diagnosis and the essential measures have been available for a good decade in the form of reports in commissions and expertise in recommendations, forming the object of a wide consensus, from the centre left to the republican right. This paper thus aims to answer to the following question: what are the causes of this sustainable and paradoxical inactivity?

La Vie des Idées

Les clés d'un nouveau modèle social - La révolution du revenu universel

by Ariel Kyrrou and Yann Moulier Boutang

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (13 p.)

Any basic income is not good enough. In this paper, it is supported that an unconditional and sufficient income would contribute to the construction of a contributory society, by giving new meaning to work.

Comment financer le revenu universel ?

by Marc de Basquiat [@marc2bsq](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (10 p.)

At the end of 2016, Clément Cadoret was accusing the proposals for a [universal income](#) for their lack of realism. Economist and president of the Association for the Establishment of a Basic Income, Marc de Basquiat responded by presenting the details of the logic and the parameters of the LIBER, a variant of the basic income which he supports.

Les jeunes, ces citoyens de seconde zone

by Tom Chevalier

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (12 p.)

The five-year term which is coming to an end was supposed to give priority to young people. This comparative analysis of the education and the employment policies for young people in Europe

leads the author to a dark conclusion: even today young French people are denied a full socio-economic citizenship.

Terra Nova

L'émancipation de l'Islam de France

by Alain Christnacht and Marc-Olivier Padis [@Mo_Padis](#)

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (41 p.)

The 1905 French law concerning the separation of the churches and the State protects the freedom of conscience, guarantees the free exercise of worship, asserts the religious neutrality of the State and forbids the Public from financing cults. It is however often forgotten that this bill also asks communities of believers to be responsible for the practical aspects and the organisation of the worship within the bounds of public order and in accordance with law.

GERMANY

Institut français des relations internationales

L'introduction du salaire minimum en Allemagne: un premier bilan

by Brigitte Lestrade

24 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (32 p.)

Germany introduced a minimum wage on 1 January 2015 – a first in a country that had left it to the social partners to agree on salaries. This introduction came after vivid debates between those who fought against ever deeper inequalities and those who defended the nation's competitiveness. Fears of rising unemployment have not materialised, but neither has a reduction of poverty. Those companies who had anticipated the minimum wage have adapted well, in particular by hiring less people or by making their clients pay for risen costs while low energy costs, low interest rates and an underrated Euro strengthens their competitiveness.

Institut für Europäische Politik (Institute for European Politics)

The Europeanization of the German system of government

by Roland Sturm

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

Throughout the European integration process, Germany has been part of the institutional dynamism of the EU. Until nowadays, this fact has had immediate impact on every facet of the German policy resulting in a German political system imbued with European politics as the EU has become a constant presence in the German system of government.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Miteinander in Vielfalt - Leitbild und agenda für die Einwanderungsgesellschaft

by Barbara Hoffmann

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (27 p.)

Time and again, the composition of the population in the territory of today's Federal Republic of Germany has changed by immigration and labour migration. Although, the German society today is diverse and prosperous, the attitudes of the population are very different. While some recognise

the potential of this diversity, others fear the loss of identity and trusted values as there is no clear acceptance of both immigration and diversity.

MOBILITÄT 2050 – demokratisch, nachhaltig und digital vernetzt

by René Bormann, Tilman Bracher, Bert Leerkamp, Ulrich Hatzfeld, Helmut Holzapfel, Ulrike Reutter, Oliver Schwedes and Martin Stuber

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (4 p.)

Although much is currently being done in the area of mobility, ambitions for urgently needed changes in traffic policy are not apparent. But it is also clear that when it comes to the future of mobility in Germany, it is not enough to demand more investment and to promote technological or systemic innovations. This report discusses the cornerstones of a long overdue traffic turnaround and it concentrates on the "long development lines" and upcoming directional decisions.

Stiftung Mercator/ European Council on Foreign Relations

Einsames Deutschland? - Deutsche Europapolitik im Spiegel der Anderen 2015-2017

by Josef Janning [@JJ52](#) and Almut Möller [@almutmoeller](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (83 p.)

A central question regarding the current developments and debates of German foreign and European politics is the level of flexibility of the EU. The debate on a flexible union, in which smaller groups of member states are progressing more rapidly, is as old as the Union itself and on the one hand it presents the advantage of a community which remains open to action but on the other hand, there is a fear that the formation of groups jeopardizes cohesion in Europe and pushes forward the disintegration of the community of states.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Germany's security policy and the Trump administration: modified rhetoric and moderate commitments

by Justyna Gotkowska [@jgotkowska](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.) and in [Polish](#) (8 p.)

The new administration of President Trump is pushing for its European allies to increase their defence budgets and their military commitment to international security. This message is directed at Germany in particular, which has so far been unwilling to substantially increase its defence budget or to send the Bundeswehr to operations abroad. Berlin's response to the US pressure will take into account both political realities (elections to the Bundestag in autumn 2017) and the broader German approach to security policy.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

Cash transfers, food security and resilience in fragile contexts - General evidence and the German experience

by Luis A. Camacho and Merle Kreibaum

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This paper provides an overview of the evidence on the impact of cash-based interventions (CBIs) on the immediate, underlying and basic causes of food and nutrition security. Using a theoretical framework developed by the United Nations Children's Fund, the high potential of CBIs for humanitarian and transitional assistance is stressed.

IRELAND

The Bruges Group

Why Brexit should be accompanied by Irexit (Ireland exit)

by Anthony Coughlan

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Ireland's political establishment is only now realising that Brexit really does mean Brexit and that the case for an accompanying Irexit is overwhelming. The author analyses why the Irish opinion is likely to move in this direction over the coming two years and that UK policy-makers should encourage that.

ITALY

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Italexit is not a solution for Italy's problems

by Lorenzo Codogno [@lorenzocodogno](#) and Giampaolo Galli [@GiampaoloGalli](#)

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Italexit, the exit of Italy from the euro zone, may only happen because of the unwilling and messy result of an unbearable deterioration in public finances and economic performances, combined with misguided political will and financial market turmoil. This would be a catastrophic scenario, with incommensurable economic, social, and political costs lasting for many years. Much better, and less costly, would be to address Italy's underlying problems, allowing the country to survive and thrive within the euro by enhancing potential growth and economic resilience.

A joint intervention for Italy: a non-punitive plan for investment and reform

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#) and Marcello Messori

13 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.) and in [Italian](#) (15 p.)

The Italian government needs to propose an economic and administrative reform to the European institutions and to obtain a medium-term plan to re-launch private and public investment through the mobilisation of European resources that are, in part, already available. This would stimulate that capital formation lost in Italy during the crises due to the radical uncertainty over the future of the euro-area. It is this persistent uncertainty that, interacting with the country's own weaknesses, impedes the Italian economy to converge towards the rest of the euro-area, and thus keeps the future integrity of the monetary union in doubt.

Istituto Bruno Leoni

Il futuro delle concessioni demaniali marittime in Italia: un riordino necessario

by Francesco Bruno

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (12 p.)

The concessioners of sea state property have always relied on time extensions and treated the space given, in fact, as their own property. Apart from being in breach of legal certainty and a restriction to competition, such situations were also found to be contrary to European laws on services. It is suggested that there is a need to reorganise the system of state concessions, by opening it to competition and safeguarding the investments and the professionalism that has been

invested in the sector, with the prospect of transparency in the award of the concessions in compliance with the antitrust laws.

NETHERLANDS

The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

Een kompas voor een wereld in beweging - De rol van Buitenlandse Zaken in het borgen van Nederlandse belangen

by Rob de Wijk, Paul Sinning, Willem Oosterveld, Tim Sweijs, Joost Kraak, Laura Granek, Willem Bloem and Myrthe van der Gaast

February 2017

Link to the article in [Dutch](#) (100 p.)

Fundamental changes are needed in the traditional foreign policy of the Netherlands such as vision-driven pragmatism as a guiding principle. In this way, if traditional partnerships are under pressure, new alternative partners should be found. The biggest challenge for the Netherlands is to be able to operate a foreign policy in which geopolitical realities are clearly reflected, but in which socio-political and economic values, that brought the country prosperity and stability, can also be maintained.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) led by outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte easily pulls ahead in the general elections in the Netherlands

by Corinne Deloy

21 March 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.) and in [French](#) (3 p.)

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), the liberal movement led by outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte easily drew ahead in the general elections that took place on 15 March in the Netherlands. The VVD won 21.3% of the vote and took 33 of the 150 seats available in the lower house of Parliament (Tweede Kamer), in other words 8 less than in the previous elections on 12 September 2012.

The party of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte and that of populist Geert Wilders running neck and neck just one month before the general elections in the Netherlands

by Corinne Deloy

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.) and in [French](#) (6 p.)

On 15 March, 12.9 million Dutch were called to renew the 150 members of the lower house of Parliament (Tweede Kamer). These elections will precede the presidential and general elections in France and the German general election. A snap parliamentary election might also be organised in Italy in the course of this year. These four member states are facing the threat of the rise of the populist right and a weakening on the left.

SPAIN

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Should pensions be redistributive? The impact of Spanish reforms on the system's sustainability and adequacy

by Concepció Patxot, Meritxell Solé and Guadalupe Souto

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (51 p.)

Concerns about the consequences of demographic ageing on the sustainability of the pension system has led to the adoption of reforms reducing pension expenditure. However, the impact of these reforms on pension adequacy is now coming under increasing scrutiny. Taking recent Spanish reforms as an example, this paper analyses the extent to which fostering pension sustainability threatens pension adequacy, with a particular focus on inter- and intra-generational equity.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

España en el mundo en 2017: perspectivas y desafíos

by Ignacio Molina [@_ignaciomolina](#) (coord.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (63 p.)

This collective work seeks to make a prospective analysis on the international position of Spain for 2017 and provide a review of what happened during 2016.

España en el G20: estar y ser

by Andrés Ortega [@andresortegak](#)

8 February 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (11 p.)

Spain can consolidate its position as a 'guest' in the G20 and use this status for its bilateral and regional relations.

UNITED KINGDOM

Adam Smith Institute

Against the national living wage: why 2017 is not 1997

by Ben Southwood [@bswud](#) and Sam Bowman [@s8mb](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

The National Living Wage, announced in the 2015 Autumn Statement and effective from 1 April 2016, effectively takes control of the Minimum Wage out of the hands of the Low Pay Commission (LPC) and gives it to the government. Under the National Living Wage framework, the LPC is relegated to sketching out the path of increases, with little say over whether the overall trajectory is a good or bad idea. The issue has become a political football, like monetary policy before Bank of England independence. This paper reviews the empirical evidence on the direct and indirect impacts of increases to the Minimum Wage.

CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

Competitiveness before carbon: how to safeguard Britain's just about managing companies by making energy costs a source of competitive advantage for UK firms

by Glyn Gaskarth

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (190 p.)

Although the UK has substantial fossil fuel resources that could be used to make UK energy prices a source of competitive advantage for local firms, energy prices are damaging the competitiveness of UK firms. Thus the regulations that curtail the use of UK fossil fuels need to be abolished and a new UK energy policy should be adopted in order to prioritise the securing of low and stable energy prices for energy consumers.

Demos

Talking to ourselves? Political debate online and the echo chamber effect

by Alex Krasodonski-Jones [@akrasodonski](#)

4 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

2016 was a year of unanticipated political decisions: the election of Donald Trump, the decision to leave the EU, even the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Party leader. There has been, over the last decade, a dramatic change in the way political ideas, news and debates occur. When fingers have been pointed in blame, they have almost invariably been pointed at the internet. In this paper, the aim is to add to this debate by measuring the existence of an echo chamber effect where it exists among established political groups in the UK, thereby testing commonly held assumptions around the way politics takes place online.

Reform

Work in progress. Towards a leaner, smarter public-sector workforce.

by Alexander Hitchcock [@AlexJHitchcock](#), Kate Laycock [@kelaycock](#) and Emilie Sundorph [@ESundorph](#)

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (90 p.)

The public-sector workforce is central to the successful and efficient delivery of public services. Accounting for more than half of day-to-day public expenditure it is essential that its size, structure and skills are continually evaluated, and updated to deliver public services that meet the changing needs and expectations of users. Although the workforce's size has changed over the last half a century and more, it has not always been organised around the needs of users. Designing a workforce capable of meeting people's needs and expectations today and in the coming decades should be a key aim of government.

Institute for Government

Performance tracker - A data-driven analysis of the performance of government

by Nehal Davison [@nehal_davison](#), Emily Andrews [@Emilyishness](#), Julian McCrae [@Julian McCrae](#), Adam Boon and Richard Douglas

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (66 p.)

This analysis sheds light on the heated, but opaque, debate about whether the British public services are at breaking point or whether there is room for more efficiency. The aim is to prompt

better financial planning in government, which will improve the oversight of essential public services.

The 2017 Northern Ireland Assembly election

by Akash Paun [@AkashPaun](#) and Aron Cheung [@Aron_Cheung](#)

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

Northern Ireland receives more EU funding per head than the rest of the UK and thus it enjoys high -although currently declining- public spending. Therefore, Northern Ireland does not want a return to Westminster rule despite the fact that attitudes to Brexit seem divided along the sectarian lines. Sectarian identities have weakened but the political system has not caught up as the dominance of the current political situation is unlikely to change.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Come together - Lessons from Bedford on reaching out to Britain's most isolated minorities

by Chris Murray [@ChrisMurray2010](#)

26 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

The town of Bedford is an ideal case study of migrant integration at work in the UK, offering examples both of successful policies and good community relations but also of the barriers that prevent certain groups from successfully integrating. This report presents the evidence as to how simple adaptations to existing service provision can make a significant difference to the lives of these hardest-to-reach people.

Skills 2030 - Why the adult skills system is failing to build an economy that works for everyone

by Joe Dromey [@Joe_Dromey](#) and Clare McNeil [@claremcneil1](#)

18 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

England's current adult skills system cannot deliver an economy that works for everyone: low demand and investment among employers has resulted in a glut of low-quality provision with poor outcomes in terms of pay and productivity. This report reviews the evidence, and recommends that the government expands the apprenticeship levy into a wider skills levy and creates a regional skills fund to invest in the lowest-skilled areas.

Working well: a plan to reduce long term sickness absence

by Bill Davies [@Bill_Davies_87](#), Joe Dromey [@Joe_Dromey](#), Clare McNeil [@claremcneil1](#), Charlotte Snelling [@CSnelling_UK](#) and Craig Thorley [@craigithorley](#)

15 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

Not enough is being done by businesses or government in order to prevent people leaving work and moving onto sickness benefits. The result is a stubbornly high number of employment support allowance and incapacity benefit claimants. This report makes the case for a new 'Fit Pay' policy that would give employers the incentive to work with staff to keep them healthy and in work.

Care in a post-Brexit climate: how to raise standards and meet workforce challenges

by Giselle Cory, Carys Roberts [@carysroberts](#) and Craig Thorley [@craigjthorley](#)

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This report explores the drivers of inadequate standards of care in the UK, including chronic underinvestment, the reliance on a low paid, poorly trained workforce and high levels of staff turnover. It also sets out a vision for a more relational, personalised care system, delivered by a more highly skilled and well-resourced workforce.

Forgotten opportunities - The dynamic role of the rural economy in post-Brexit Britain

by Ed Cox [@edcox_ippr](#), Chris Murray [@ChrisMurray2010](#) and Anna Round

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (69 p.)

This report presents a fresh, place-based approach to rural policy that addresses local, national and global issues effectively and recommends the introduction of 'rural devolution deals' that would give local and combined authorities powers and obligations to improve food production and sustainability, the environment, industrial strategy and capital spending to support infrastructure and development.

Equitable equity: increasing and diversifying finance for high-growth SMEs in the UK's regions

by Izzy Hatfield [@izzyhatfield](#)

3 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.)

The economically vital and high-growth businesses of the UK often struggle to access finance, particularly from investors and through crowdfunding. This report asks how to open up access to all sources of finance for successful SMEs, and ensure that public money supports this across all parts of the UK.

Rebooting devolution: a common-sense approach to taking back control

by Jack Hunter [@JackIPPR](#)

1 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

The 'devolution revolution' has stalled, largely due to lack of a clear purpose, process or timescale. A rebooted, successful approach to devolution requires a principle-based framework, set out in this report, that would devolve powers and responsibilities to the lowest appropriate level of government and take a common-sense approach to vital questions of scale, 'packages' of powers, and metro-mayors.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La opción nuclear en la estrategia energética del Reino Unido

by Claudio Aranzadi

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (18 p.)

This document examines the Hinkley Point C project, a new investment cycle in nuclear reactors which the UK Government anticipates will result in a park of nuclear generation 14 Gw in 2035.

ResPublica

Air Necessities: place-based approaches to a pollution crisis

by Tom Follett [@tomfollett](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This paper looks at how cities and local authorities, with support from the Government, can act intelligently to tackle air pollution as soon as possible. In particular, air pollution generated from road traffic, kills the equivalent of 40,000 people each year, and costs the National Health Service and the economy billions of pounds. Increased use of diesel vehicles has led to unacceptable levels of pollution, and the effects are worst in city centres, with 16 currently over the legal limit for Nitrogen oxide pollution.

BREXIT

European Policy Centre

Brexit: the launch of Article 50

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The author gives an outline of what will follow after the launch of Article 50 based on what is out so far (the content of Article 50, Theresa May's speech at Lancaster House and the Brexit white paper), and discusses the points of ambiguity and contention that will need to be resolved. The most difficult issue will, as always, be money and the UK's contribution to the EU budget.

Brexit and Europe: a new entente

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The UK is set to leave the EU; of that, everyone is certain. As with all divorces, especially ones where both partners' interests and assets are so intricately entwined, there is a risk of bitter recrimination. But although UK Prime Minister Theresa May declared that "Brexit means Brexit", it will hardly be the end of the UK's engagement in the continent. In this paper, Andrew Duff examines whether the authors can begin to look at the Article 50 process in a more positive light – that is, whether Brexit could herald a new period of entente between Britain and Europe.

College of Europe

The inevitability of gradualness: the longer-term origins of the 23 June 2016 'Brexit' referendum

by Martin Westlake

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.)

This paper identifies and charts a number of longer-term trends that led ultimately to the UK's 23 June 2016 in-out referendum on EU membership. It shows in particular how a device, the referendum, until recently regarded as anathema to the British tradition of parliamentary democracy, was first legitimised, then constitutionalised and, simultaneously, popularised. And it shows how manifesto commitments for a referendum on the single currency morphed into commitments for a referendum on the Constitutional Treaty and then the Lisbon Treaty and then into referendum lock acts and, finally, the in-out referendum.

Centre for European Reform

Parliamentarians in Brexit talks: bulls in a china shop?

by Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska [@AgataGostynska](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

Brexiters argue that the EU and its institutions pose a threat to Britain's parliamentary democracy. They deride the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, which jointly approve EU legislation, as remote and undemocratic. Eurosceptics complain that the principle of the supremacy of EU law has rendered the British Parliament's role in law making irrelevant, and claim that the UK can only be sovereign again if it leaves the EU. They made these points to great effect in the EU referendum campaign.

Mrs May's emerging deal on Brexit: not just hard, but also difficult

by Charles Grant [@CER_Grant](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

What will the Brexit deal look like? Which are the key decisions that Theresa May still has to make? And what should she do in order to get the best possible deal?

The €60 billion Brexit bill: how to disentangle Britain from the EU budget

by Alex Barker [@alexebarker](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

A stand-off between the EU and Britain over the size of its exit bill could lead to the collapse of negotiations and an abrupt, disorderly Brexit.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Devolved external affairs: the impact of Brexit

by Richard G. Whitman [@RGWhitman](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

Brexit will have significant political and institutional implications for the external affairs of the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is a consequence of the devolution of power that has taken place within the UK since it joined the EU. Under current legislative arrangements, after the UK leaves the EU some of these powers are expected to return directly to the devolved administrations, which will then have more autonomy in these policy areas.

Centre for European Policy Studies

After the UK's Brexit White Paper – What's the next move towards a CFTA?

by Michael Emerson [@Michael12540](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

In a White Paper entitled "[The UK's exit from and new partnership with the EU](#)" published on 2 February, the UK government has set the stage for the beginning of negotiations once the Article 50 notification is completed. In this paper, the author points out that the language is explicit in wanting a Strategic Partnership (and not an Association Agreement), and within that, a "bold, ambitious and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement". Against this background, he reflects on the

possible next moves the UK might make to secure such an agreement, and analyses a range of possible responses from the EU.

Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute

British business strategy, EU social and employment policy and the emerging politics of Brexit

by Scott Lavery [@ScottLavery1](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

This paper highlights how Brexit will change the strategy of British business which have traditionally engaged with the EU institutions in order to further their objectives. The author outlines how British business has attempted to 'defend and extend' a liberalising agenda in the EU throughout the pre-referendum period. It is argued that Brexit fundamentally undermines this strategic orientation.

Overseas Development Institute

Post-Brexit trade policy and development: current developments; new directions?

by Max Mendez-Parra [@m_mendezparra](#), Dirk Willem te Velde [@DWteVelde](#) and Jane Kennan

March 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

To date, there has been little or no consideration by the UK government of Brexit's impact on developing countries or an assessment of the opportunities that Brexit may present in terms of trade and development cooperation. For example every pound of bilateral aid leads to a 22 pence increase in UK exports. As it negotiates new FTAs around the world, all of the UK's current and future trading partners should be assured that they will not be worse off because of Brexit, and the UK should be clear that it is open to every country in the world.

VISEGRAD GROUP

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Strengthening Social Democracy in the Visegrad Countries - Limits and Challenges Faced by Smer-SD

by Darina Malová

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

This report reviews the social democracy in Slovakia. It focusses on the historical contract of social democracy in Slovakia, on the party organization of Smer-SD and its election results. It summarizes the programme, values and policy of Smer-SD and the party's networks and alliances. What are the current challenges of the social democratic party in Slovakia? How can the party respond to them?

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Transparency International

Top secret - Countries keep financial crime fighting data to themselves

by Barbara Kowalczyk-Hoyer and Max Heywood [@maxheywood](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.)

In recent years, the financial sector has provided ample reason to question this belief. The majority of large-scale corruption scandals, from Ukraine to Brazil, have featured banks transferring or managing funds for the perpetrators and their associates. To reduce money-laundering risks and increase the systemic accountability of the financial sector, this report recommends that financial sector supervisors should make a standard set of supervisory and enforcement statistics public on a yearly basis, including the number of banks inspected, the number of regulatory breaches found, and the number and value of sanctions imposed.

MIGRATION

Centre for European Policy Studies

The European border and coast guard: addressing migration and asylum challenges in the Mediterranean?

by Sergio Carrera, Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#), Jean-Pierre Cassarino, Daniel Gros and Elspeth Guild

1 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

The 2015-2016 humanitarian refugee crisis in Europe has revealed several shortcomings in current EU policies on migrations, asylum and borders. This publication provides a critical examination of the main issues and lessons learned from this crisis and gives an up-to-date assessment of the main policy, legal and institutional responses that have been put in place at the EU level. It further examines the extent to which these responses can be expected to work under the current system of sharing responsibilities among EU member states in assessing asylum applications and ensuring a consistent implementation of EU legal standards.

Gender inequality and integration of non-EU migrants in the EU

by Mikkel Barslund [@mBarslund](#), Anna Di Bartolomeo [@annadibartolom3](#) and Lars Ludolph [@lars_ludolph](#)

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

The integration of refugees and migrants in general into the labour market – and into society at large – stands at the forefront of current policy debate. And rightly so: better integration enriches not only the migrant, but also the host country's population and its public finances. This report analyses the low female labour market participation in the majority of source countries, which translates into a large excess gender gap in labour market integration among non-EU migrants in Europe. This paper argue that there is a particularly strong case for labour market integration measures, specifically geared towards female migrants

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Making waves: implications of the irregular migration and refugee situation on official development assistance spending and practices in Europe - A study of recent developments in the EU institutions, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden

by Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#) and Andrew Sheriff

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (263 p.)

Increasingly high numbers of refugees and migrants have come to Europe over the past five years seeking protection. Beyond hosting and providing assistance to new arrivals, the EU and its member states have used various political, development and humanitarian assistance tools in order to address the current displacement and migration challenges abroad. This report highlights a number of key issues concerning how the irregular migration and refugee situation have impacted the volumes and orientation of official development assistance.

European Political Strategy Centre

Irregular migration via the Central Mediterranean: from emergency responses to systemic solutions

2 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

2016 was both the deadliest year yet and the one that saw the largest number of irregular migrants disembark in Italy. With the closing of the Western Balkan route and the conclusion of the EU-Turkey agreement, the Central Mediterranean now acts as the main gate of entry for irregular migrants arriving in the EU by sea. Against this backdrop, there is a clear need to strengthen concerted action at EU level to better control Europe's Southern sea borders, while offering improved humanitarian assistance and protection to those in need.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Fondation Robert Schuman

Returning meaning to the Common Agricultural Policy

by Bernard Bourget

20 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.) and in [French](#) (6 p.)

Whereas the European Commission has just launched a [consultation](#) on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for future budgetary planning of the EU (post 2020), the reasons for disenchantment with regard to this policy should be considered, for this is a policy that is less and less well understood by many farmers and by the general population. Account should then be taken of the constraints to which the CAP is subject, before looking at the directions that could be taken to restore the confidence of Europeans in this European policy by returning meaning to it.

European Parliament Think Tank

Research for AGRI Committee - The Consequences of Climate Change for EU Agriculture. Follow-up to the COP21 - UN Paris Climate Change Conference

by Kaley Hart, Ben Allen, Clunie Keenleyside, Silvia Nanni [@SVNanni](#), Anne Maréchal, Kamila Paquel [@KamilaPaquel](#), Martin Nesbit [@arrhenius](#) and Julia Ziemann

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (136 p.)

This report reviews and discusses the implications for the agriculture sector of the COP21 UN Paris climate change conference and the recent EU climate policy proposals for 2030. It looks

specifically at the role that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays in supporting climate action within the agriculture sector and considers how the CAP might evolve post 2020 to support the agricultural sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.

Bloom Association

The dark side of aquaculture

by Frédéric Le Manach [@FredLeManach](#), Megan Bailey [@fishgovernance](#), Tim Cashion and Claire Nouvian [@ClaireNouvian](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This report dives into the world of 'reduction fisheries', i.e. the transformation of wild fish into fishmeal and fish oil to supply the aquaculture sector, as well as pig and poultry farming. This report shows that reduction fisheries were developed as a result of our inability to sustainably manage abundant traditional fish stocks. It demonstrates that the 'fishing down' process from species high in the food chain to species lower in the food chain also occurs within reduction fisheries themselves, which are shifting from typical pelagic species such as anchovy, sandeel and herring to new, hitherto 'undesirable' species such as boarfish and lanternfish (Myctophids).

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Bruegel

Making the best of the European single market

by Vincent Aussilloux [@VincentAussi](#), Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Clemens Fuest [@FuestClemens](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

2 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

Now more than ever, the EU needs to address concerns about the significant decline in productivity growth and the increasing perception of unfairness. Completing the single market would unlock the EU's growth potential. At the same time, the EU should empower member states to fight inequality by helping them better distribute the gains arising from economic integration.

An economic review of the collaborative economy

by Georgios Petropoulos [@georgionomix](#)

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

This paper: i) discusses how the collaborative economy can be defined; ii) provides an overview of evidence about its potential benefits for European economies and the impact of specific platforms in the sectors of their operation; iii) illustrates the criteria that enable professional and non-professional services offered through collaborative platforms to be distinguished; iv) recommends priorities for the platforms so that they can create a safe and transparent environment for the transactions of their users; v) discusses further regulatory concerns and how they should be approached.

Centre for European Policy Studies / European Credit Research Institute

The future of retail financial services: what policy mix for a balanced digital transformation? Report of a CEPS-ECRI Task Force

by Sylvain Bouyon (rap.)

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (93 p.)

While policy-makers are gradually creating the necessary conditions to strengthen digital transformation, numerous policy issues and unanswered questions remain. Against this background, CEPS-ECRI formed a Task Force to explore four specific core questions: What type of level playing field is needed for a successful digital transformation? What are the opportunities and risks related to big (alternative) data and increasingly sophisticated algorithms? What framework of pre-contractual information duties is appropriate in a digital era? How can the regulatory framework for digital authentication be improved?

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy / Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

International patent families: from application strategies to statistical indicators

by Antoine Dechezleprêtre, Yann Ménière and Myra Mohnen

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the characteristics of international patent families, including their domestic component. The authors exploit a relatively under-studied feature of patent families, namely the number of patents covering the same invention within a given jurisdiction. Using this information, they highlight common patterns in the structure of international patent families, which reflect both the patenting strategies of innovators and the peculiarities of the different patent systems. While the literature has extensively used family size – i.e. the number of countries in which a given invention is protected – as a measure of patent value, the authors' results suggest that the number of patent filings in the priority country within a patent family, as well as the time span between the first and last filings within a family, are other insightful indicators of the value of patented innovations.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy / Climate Bonds Initiative

Public sector agenda for stimulating private market development in green securitisation in Europe

by Sean Kidney [@seankidney](#), Diletta Giuliani [@DilettaGi](#) and Beate Sonerud

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

Scaling up investment in low-carbon infrastructure is of paramount importance for limiting global warming to 2°C and for the EU to meet its 2030 emissions targets. The annual global investment required for infrastructure in a low-carbon scenario amounts to trillions of euros; this is not being met. This paper examines the role that green securitisation could play in plugging this gap. The authors present the rationale for green securitisation – including investor demand – as well as how the public sector could play a key role, and concluding messages for policymakers.

Corporate Europe Observatory

Driving Into Disaster: How the EU's Better Regulation agenda fuelled Dieselgate

by Fabian Hubner

24 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

'Dieselgate' was the result of corporate-driven deregulation, with both member states and European institutions complicit in turning a blind eye to industry-wide abuse, according to a report released by Corporate Europe Observatory and Friends of the Earth Europe. "Driving into Disaster" reveals how the European Commission's deregulatory 'Better Regulation' agenda implicates the institution in an affair that has by now engulfed many leading manufacturers in the European automotive industry.

Adapting the EU Directive on Trade Secrets 'Protection' into National Law: A transposition guide for legislators and civil society organisations

by Rodolphe Baron [@SorbonneParis1](#), Martin Pigeon [@mpceo](#) and Katharine Ainger [@katainger](#)

1 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

In June 2016, the EU's Trade Secrets Protection Directive was enacted to repress espionage, theft and unauthorised publication of companies' confidential business information, their "trade secrets". But the way it defines these is so broad that it will also, in all likelihood, make public scrutiny of corporate activities more difficult in Europe. This "transposition briefing" to the Directive aims at providing background information and analysis to this legislation in order to help national legislators and civil society when it reaches national parliaments for discussion and adoption.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Is socially responsible production a normal good?

by Jana Friedrichsen

17 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This paper uses a controlled laboratory experiment to investigate the effect of wealth on individual social responsibility (ISR), defined as choosing a more socially responsible product if a cheaper alternative is available. The report find that rich consumers are significantly less likely to engage in ISR than poor consumers. This suggests that socially responsible production conditions may not be normal product attributes.

European Capital Markets Institute

Brexit and the asset management industry

by Karel Lannoo [@karellannoo](#)

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

In this article, the author observes that Brexit will have a big impact on the asset management industry for three reasons: 1) the passport will disappear for UK-licensed companies; 2) the equivalence regime, is unevenly developed across the different segments of asset management; and 3) the value chains in asset management will be affected, with implications for supporting firms or infrastructures. Against this scenario, the author offers an overview of the UK asset management industry from a European perspective. He then discusses the applicable EU rules, the equivalence regime and the impact of Brexit.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Businesses in Europe and the data economy

by Henri Thomé [@HenriThome](#)

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [French](#) (5 p.)

The market economy is changing and will change profoundly the business model of all activities. Hence we have to understand how to manage this raw material that data has become and how to regulate this new economy. The status of property is the focus of thought, the imperatives of competition and personal data protection likewise, whilst innovation in the supply of services and products will be a factor of economic development. Debate at European level has been launched.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Centre for European Policy Studies

Fulfilment of national objectives under the Renewable Energy Directive: state of play and projections

by Arndt Hassel [@ArndtHassel](#), Razvan Nicolescu [@Raz Nicolescu](#), Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#), Andreea Nica and Sorin Elisei

17 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

The [EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources](#) contains the main body of the EU's current renewable energy policy. Adopted in April 2009, the Directive provides a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources in all EU member states. The act specifies binding national targets for the share of renewable energy (as a percent of gross final energy consumption) for each member state, which together amount to an EU-wide target of 20%. This report reviews the progress made to date by each member state towards fulfilling its target and offers projections about possible outcomes in the year 2020.

Bruegel

Extending the scope of the geo-blocking prohibition: an economic assessment

by J. Scott Marcus and Georgios Petropoulos [@georgionomix](#)

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

On 25 May 2016, the European Commission presented a [proposal for a regulation on addressing unjustified geo-blocking](#). This paper illustrates the prevalence of geo-blocking in e-commerce and summarises available relevant evidence. It also discusses the economic impact of lifting geo-blocking restrictions in online goods and copyrighted digital content services.

European Parliament Think Tank

Promoting renewable energy sources in the EU after 2020

by Alex Benjamin Wilson

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

On 30 November 2016, the European Commission launched a legislative package entitled 'Clean energy for all Europeans'. This includes a recast of the existing Directive on the promotion of renewable energy sources ('RES Directive') to help meet the goals of the 2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework, in particular the binding target of a 27% EU share of RES in final energy consumption by 2030. This article presents both component of the legislative package.

Atlantic Council

Energiewende - from Germany's past to Europe's future?

by Thomas Cunningham

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Germany's historical experience explains how the energy transition (Energiewende) came about, and largely explains the resilience of the policies to abandon nuclear power and to scale-up renewables in the face of the challenges they have posed to Germany's consumers, utilities, and international competitiveness. Whereas the success of the Energiewende to date has come from the way it takes a unifying approach to energy, environment, and labour policies, its success will require expanding the scope from a German to an EU-wide scale.

Stiftung Mercator

Energiewende und Dezentralität - Zu den Grundlagen einer politischen Debatte

by Gerd Rosenkranz [@GerdRosenkranz](#) and Christoph Podewils [@Chr_Podewils](#)

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (164 p.)

The publication presents the first discussion approaches for the concept of decentralisation. This shows that many different aspects of the energy industry are understood from this term - from the question of self-supply to the spatial distribution of electricity production and the creation of regional (smarter) markets to the question of the role of different actors in the energy industry.

E3G

Climate & energy snapshot: Czech Republic - The political economy of the low-carbon transition

by Julian Schwartzkopff [@JSchwartzkopff](#), Sabrina Schulz [@sbschulz](#) and Alexandra Goritz

26 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

This paper presents an assessment of the political economy of the Czech Republic with regard to the low-carbon transition. It is part of a series of briefings on the four Central European states forming the Visegrad Group. Often perceived as one unified bloc working against the low-carbon transition, E3G digs deeper and studies their specificities, their influence and their particular social and economic interests, in order to identify opportunities to accelerate the low-carbon transition, domestically, and at the European level.

Climate & energy snapshot: Hungary - The political economy of the low-carbon transition

by Sabrina Schulz [@sbschulz](#), Ada Amon [@AdaAmon23](#), Alexandra Goritz and Julian Schwartzkopff [@JSchwartzkopff](#)

26 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

This paper presents an assessment of the political economy of Hungary with regard to the low-carbon transition. It is part of a series of briefings on the four Central European states forming the Visegrad Group. Often perceived as one unified bloc working against the low-carbon transition, E3G digs deeper and studies their specificities, their influence and their particular social and economic interests, in order to identify opportunities to accelerate the low-carbon transition, domestically, and at the European level.

Climate & energy snapshot: Poland - The political economy of the low-carbon transition

by Julian Schwartzkopff [@JSchwartzkopff](#) and Sabrina Schulz [@sbschulz](#)

26 February 2017

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Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Energy in the German-Polish relationship: acknowledging controversies – pursuing shared interests

by Aleksandra Gawlikowska-Fyk, Kai-Olaf Lang, Karsten Neuhoff, Ellen Scholl [@EllenScholl](#) and Kirsten Westphal

10 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Germany and Poland stand as examples of the differing interests of individual EU member states in energy policy. Progress in bilateral engagement has stalled, as controversies, threaten to distract attention from other issues and avenues for energy cooperation. While acknowledging disagreements, the focus should be on identifying areas of agreement and opportunities for cooperation. Although the difficulty of resolving highly controversial issues is not to be discounted, addressing them will require taking steps to establish trust while designing programs and projects to transform the idea of solidarity from rhetoric into reality.

The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The forthcoming LNG supply wave: A case of "crying wolf"?

by Howard Rogers

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

Since 2015 analysts and researchers have announced the imminent arrival of a surge of LNG into the European gas market, as supply projects from mainly Australia and the USA come on stream and LNG in excess of Asian requirements arrives at European import terminals. To date this has not happened, in fact 2016's European region LNG imports were down 3.3% on 2015. This paper examines the reasons for this and presents an updated view on the growth of global LNG supply and its impact on Europe under two Asian Demand Scenarios.

Towards a Balkan gas hub: the interplay between pipeline gas, LNG and renewable energy in South East Europe

by Aleksandar Kovacevic

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (113 p.)

This paper addresses the potential for the region to evolve to a situation where a more diverse set of gas supply options established a degree of competition through gas on gas pricing and an emergent trading activity. The author details possible routes by which competing supply could achieve an initial level of market opening. In addition to pipeline supply, small scale LNG penetration into the Black Sea and its major navigable rivers create possible options. Although gas demand growth is unlikely to be significant in the region, it is the unsustainable nature of the

existing energy mix which will begin to catalyse change, followed by the penetration of supply seeking a competitive but cost reflective margin over European traded market prices.

European Institute for Asian Studies

The EU-China energy cooperation - An institutional analysis

by Chao Zhang

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

As one of the components of the EU–China relations, the EU–China energy relationship has experienced an evolution of institutionalisation for over two decades. Now, an EU–China energy cooperation institutional framework has been constructed. These institutions have been playing a significant role in helping EU–China energy cooperation by promoting bilateral dialogues and fostering cooperation projects. However, they still face some flaws. This paper discusses the EU–China energy relationship from an institutionalist point of view. Its purpose is to outline the institutional framework of the EU–China energy relationship, find out its flaws and give corresponding recommendations.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Overseas Development Institute

Women's economic empowerment at international level

by Abigail Hunt [@abiehunt](#) and Moizza Binat Sarwar

March 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

Upon request by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament, this note provides background information for the FEMM Committee mission to the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. The note focuses on the key priority theme of the 61st Session: "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work".

European Parliament Think Tank

Posting of Workers Directive

by Monika Kiss

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

The posting of workers plays an important role in the internal market and while the number of posted workers continues to increase significantly, problems like unfair practices and unequal remunerations persist. The correct balance between the freedom to provide cross-border services and the social rights of workers needs to be adapted to today's situation. The revision of the Posting of Workers Directive (96/71/EC) proposed by the Commission would bring changes in three areas: the remuneration of posted workers, more coherent rules on temporary agency workers, as well as long-term posting.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefits scheme

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Karolien Lenaerts

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (114 p.) and to the executive summary in [English](#) (20 p.)

This document presents the final report of a project on the feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefits scheme. The aim of the study is to assess the legal and operational feasibility of introducing a European unemployment benefits scheme (EUBS), as well as the economic added value that such a scheme could bring. This study provides evidence and insights on the barriers ahead and different ways to deal with the potential stabilisation mechanisms of an EUBS.

Design of a European unemployment benefit scheme

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#), Karolien Lenaerts and Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (146 p.)

In this report, it is assessed how a European unemployment benefit scheme (EUBS) could be designed. As such, 8 EUBS variants, 4 equivalent and 14 genuine schemes are examined. Some of these features can also be found in national unemployment benefit schemes, while others are more related to the EUBS context. The authors analyse the design of a common EUBS in previous literature and combine these insights with results for the legal and operational options as well as constraints and the economic value added obtained as part of our study on the "Feasibility and Added Value of a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme", also published by the Centre for European Policy Studies.

Policy Network

Europe's new social reality: the case against universal basic income

by Daniel Sage and Patrick Diamond

16 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

In 2015, the Policy Network report 'The Social Reality of Europe After the Crisis' identified the growing social, economic and political divergence between the regions of Europe as one of the most important consequences of the crisis. Social democratic parties have struggled to respond with convincing narratives and policy solutions. A growing number have advocated for the introduction of a universal basic income (UBI). This paper poses a question about the extent to which UBI is the solution. Finally, the report scrutinises the claim that UBI is a panacea for the efforts of the centre left in its capacity to tackle the social challenges already identified.

Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

Ambiguities of social Europe: political agenda setting among trade unionists from Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe

by Martin Seeliger

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (29 p.)

The article analyses the integration of Central and Eastern European (CEE) trade unions in European policy-making. With reference to transnational cooperation in two fields of European-level decision making, it investigates the extent to which trade unions from the CEE countries are participating in the development of policy positions among trade union organisations. The article

highlights three aspects: (1) the instrumental meaning of "Social Europe" (2) the necessity of a mid-way position between optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints on East–West trade union cooperation, and (3) the meaning of social skill among European-level trade union actors.

European Trade Union Institute

From growth to well-being: a new paradigm for EU economic governance

by Georg Feigl

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

This policy brief criticises the European Economic Governance system for being too narrowly focused on economic growth and competitiveness. Starting from the [2009 report](#) by the Commission on the measurement of economic performance and social progress (Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi), the brief proposes a new framework (a 'magic polygon') and a new scoreboard for an alternative economic policy geared towards well-being, convergence and social-ecological sustainability.

Bertelsmann Stiftung / European Bureau for Policy Consulting and Social Research Vienna / Economic Policy Center - University of St. Gallen

Social policy in the EU – Reform barometer 2016. Social inclusion monitor Europe

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (344 p.)

Opportunities for social participation in Europe are unevenly distributed. How much need is there for socio-political reform in the individual EU member states? Will the reforms already undertaken suffice to level the playing field on social issues? To cast light upon these questions, the Bertelsmann Stiftung developed a Reform Barometer in cooperation with the European Bureau for Policy Consulting and Social Research Vienna and the University of St. Gallen. The Reform Barometer focuses on different angles which relate to social justice, poverty prevention, equitable education, labour market access, social cohesion and non-discrimination and health.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Slovenia

by Goran Lukić

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

Slovenia's main economic indicators improved in 2016 while the labour market situation has been giving mixed signals. The number of people in paid employment increased, but there is a clear rise in the number of persons who work as self-employed or temporary. There were several trade union actions and strikes in 2016. On 21 December 2016, the government and public sector trade unions signed an agreement to phase out the remaining austerity measures affecting pay and to tackle pay disparities over the next two years.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Bulgaria

by Plamen Dimitrov

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

Political instability, enhanced fiscal discipline, low domestic investment activity, and slow labour market recovery are among the leading factors that have worsened the environment for development of social dialogue and industrial relations in Bulgaria. The minimum wage remains one of the most important tools to influence incomes policy, but increasingly it has been facing

more and more intense opposition from employers' organisations. Furthermore, negotiations on minimum insurance thresholds and on a framework for minimum wage-setting have been controversial.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

by Elza Ungure and Aija Lulle [@aijalu](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

There have not been significant changes regarding trade union and employers' organisations. Trade union density remains low in all three Baltic States. There are also signs that practices of collective negotiations and bargaining, as well as of social dialogue often do not have the desired impact and effect on the policymaking process as they can be easily disregarded by policy-makers and legislators.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Croatia

by Darko Seperic

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

The public budget deficit is expected to be lower than 3% of GDP for the first time since 2008, while the debt-to-GDP ratio decreased for the first time since 2007. Due to a dysfunctional ruling coalition, 2016 was mostly lost for reforms, including those outlined in the National Reform Programme. An increase in the share of flexible forms of employment, continued with the share of temporary workers reaching 24.2% in the third quarter of 2016. Industrial relations in the public sector were marked by negotiations over a 6% wage increase, which was triggered by the GDP growth in the second part of 2015.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Czech Republic

by Aleš Chmelař [@AlesChmelar](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

The Czech Republic has recorded a continued period of growth and low unemployment, although growth of investment and industrial production has slowed down from the previous. The economic situation has been dominated by record-low unemployment, but also an extremely high job vacancy rate. This has created more tensions for social dialogue as trade unions continued to oppose facilitating the import of low-skilled labour. The tension is largely driven by the disagreement on the future development of wages as trade unions see cheap-labour importation as a tool to avoid wage increases across-the-board during this period of labour shortage.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Poland

by Michał Polakowski

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

Developments in Poland in 2016 were marked by the consequences of the landslide victories of the right wing forces. The social and economic as well as constitutional-systemic changes have been subordinated to the agenda of the ruling party. Moreover, Poland has continued a positive trend of an increasing employment level and low unemployment. However, continuation of the positive macroeconomic situation is being questioned by experts. The major changes in the social sphere in 2016 involved a semi-universal child benefit, a lowering retirement age and modification of the structure of the education system as well as moderate changes to Personal Income Tax.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Romania

by Victoria Stoiciu

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

Romania had two rounds of elections in 2016 – local elections on the 5 June and parliamentary elections on 11 December. Social dialogue and industrial relations have been often tied to the electoral process, influencing its dynamics and outcome. Following several protests and a strike organised by the trade unions from the health care and social assistance sectors, the Parliament approved a 15% wage increase in the health care and education.

Annual review of labour relations and social dialogue: Slovakia

by Samuel Filadelfi

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

GDP data show that the Slovak Republic is currently enjoying relatively dynamic growth as the annual GDP growth rate almost exceeded the level of 4% recently and it is estimated that it will exceed this level in the upcoming years. The most significant event in the political scene, the parliamentary elections in March 2016, resulted in the victory of the ruling Smer party. However, Smer had to put together a coalition ranging widely across the political spectrum. A new, large employers' association, the Association of Industrial Unions, will join tripartite social dialogue.

Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

Decomposing health inequality in the EU

by Gintare Mazeikaite [@gintariukm](#), Cathal O'Donoghue and Denisa Sologon

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

Despite high living standards and a nearly universal healthcare provision, large cross-country differences in population health exist in the EU. More than half of this variation remains unexplained after accounting for macro-level factors. In this paper, the aim is to understand how individual-level differences in demographic characteristics, education, labour market factors and income shape the prevalence of poor self-assessed health in the EU. It is suggested that cross-country variation in the reporting of self-assessed health may be partially responsible for this result.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Europe's obesity challenge

by Frederik Erixon

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Europe is confronted by an obesity challenge. Rates of obesity have climbed fast over the past decades and will continue to grow. Obesity is a complex disease and a source for many other medical problems. Therefore, the growing prevalence of obesity also affects healthcare expenditures and labour supply in the economy. On current trends, obesity will in the future have a significant impact on healthcare spending and the productivity of Europe's economies. The growth of obesity needs to be addressed and European countries need better prevention policies for that to happen.

ENVIRONMENT

Centre for European Policy Studies

The EU Emissions Trading System after 2020: can the Parliament's Environment Committee achieve its ambitions?

by Milan Elkerbout [@MilanElkerbout](#)

10 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The recent report of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on the revised EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) for the post-2020 period differs considerably from the European Commission's proposal of summer 2015. Part of this difference may be explained by changes in the global climate policy landscape, most notably the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in November 2016. This note explores the implications of some of the ideas proposed by the ENVI Committee and reviews the main points of contention.

Institute for European Studies / Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Explaining goal achievement in international negotiations: the EU and the Paris Agreement on climate change

by Sebastian Oberthur and Lisanne Groen

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

The Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in December 2015 reflects EU policy objectives to large extent. To find an explanation, a general framework is developed that incorporates both structural and actor-/process-related factors, paying particular attention to negotiation strategy and diplomacy. On this basis, the authors argue that the high level of EU goal achievement in Paris resulted from the interplay of (1) evolving international structures, (2) effective EU strategy fitting these structures and domestic politics, and (3) favourable situational circumstances.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

A new climate trilateralism? Opportunities for cooperation between the EU, China and African countries on addressing climate change

by Moritz Weigel and Alexander Demissie

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

The EU, having shown considerable leadership in forging the Paris Agreement, also expressed its intent to work trilaterally with China and African countries to support the treaty's implementation. The new EU strategy on China proposes to turn "what is often perceived as EU-China competition in Africa into "greater cooperation" and to pursue "joint approaches" to "speed up the implementation of the Paris Agreement wherever possible, including the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions".

European Parliament Think Tank

Freshwater protection - EU policy and the status of freshwater systems

by Anne Altmayer

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

This paper provides a general overview on the status of freshwater systems within the EU. It describes the different types of water body and their connected ecosystems as well as possible

pressures on them. It also presents existing legislation at EU level, in particular the EU Water Framework Directive, and outlines the main requirements regarding freshwater quality and quantity. Finally it outlines the state of affairs concerning the implementation of legislation and attempts to summarise expectations with regard to future developments in the field of water protection.

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies / Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations / TMG – ThinkTank for Sustainability

Achieving the sustainable development goal for the oceans

by Sebastian Unger, Alexander Müller, Julien Rochette, Stefanie Schmidt, Janna Shackeroff and Glen Wright

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its comprehensive set of 17 interlinking Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer an opportunity to advance ocean sustainability. The development of an implementation framework for the SDG for the Oceans (SDG 14) is a critical step towards this overarching objective. Complemented by numerous other initiatives, the UN Ocean Conference in June and the EU-hosted 'Our Ocean Conference' in October are opportunities for the international community to establish a foundation for future action and to agree on measures to reverse the cycle of declining ocean health.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

Geopolitics of the sustainability transition – risks and opportunities

by Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#), Ries Kamphof, Paul Hofhuis, Stephan Slingerland, Barend ter Haar and Ernst Kuneman

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The authors highlight and explore opportunities for analysis that might add value to national, European and international policy developments to enhance the transition towards a climate-friendly and circular economy. They look at risks and opportunities in four areas: planetary security, long-term economic competitiveness, multilateral commitments for sustainability, and potential innovations in the role of governance in the transition process.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

European Parliament Think Tank

Research for cult committee - Migrant education: monitoring and assessment

by Miguel Àngel Essomba, Anna Tarrés, Núria Franco Guillén

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (200 p.)

This is a first attempt to explore the monitoring and assessment of migrant education (MAME) in EU countries. A review of literature indicated the main dimensions of MAME, and these have shaped a questionnaire completed by national experts of 27 EU countries. The country reports reveal that little has been done to monitor and assess migrant education, but that most countries already have an enabling infrastructure.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Getting the state out of pre-school and childcare - Ending the nannyng of UK parents

by Ryan Bourne [@MrRBourne](#) and J. R. Shackleton

8 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

The authors argue that education policy in the UK should be reoriented towards allowing parents to make free choices and judgments about the types and quality of provision they want for their children. The relatively recent imposition of many government interventions means there is probably still some opportunity to change course. But most interest groups are demanding further steps on the path to the effective nationalisation of pre-school. There are few grounds for believing this is sensible. Yet, as the experience of so many other public services shows, once government control is established it is very difficult to unpick.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Digitales Lernen: Möglichkeiten und Grenzen einer Digitalisierung im Bildungsbereich

by Klaus Zierer

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (12 p.)

Digitalization is important for a future-ready school. Successful digital learning does however not depend on modern technology, but rather also from the teachers and trainers who integrate the new possibilities into the teaching and learning methodologies. Research shows that technology alone is not a guarantee for success. Competence and attitude of the teachers and trainers are decisive.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Centre for European Policy Studies

Assessing the European Neighbourhood Policy: perspectives from the literature

by Hrant Kostanyan [@HrantKostanyan](#) (ed.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (185 p.)

Several events in the past few years have shown how the interests of European citizens are directly affected by the stability, security and prosperity of their neighbouring regions. At the same time, the EU and its member states face many challenges and dilemmas in designing and pursuing policies that not only effectively promote these interests, but also build stronger partnerships with neighbouring countries based on the values on which the Union is founded. This book identifies the factors that explain the (lack of) effectiveness and coherence of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The study identifies where there is consensus among scholars and where perspectives and judgements differ.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Core Groups: the way to real European defence

by Dick Zandee

20 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

European countries continue to have different political views on the use of military force. Their armed forces also show a wide variety in terms of capabilities for operations from low to high in the spectrum. Thus, European strategic autonomy in deploying armed forces for military operations requires a new approach. Rather than pursuing the impossible – acting at 28 – European countries should form core groups of partners with comparable intent, willingness and capabilities. All core groups should support each other in a network, to be developed under the overarching umbrella's of the EU and NATO.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Il dibattito sulla difesa europea: sviluppi Ue e prospettive nazionali

by Francesca Bitondo [@frabitondo](#), Jean-Pierre Darnis [@jpdarnis](#), Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro_Ma](#) and Ester Sabatino

February 2017

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (52 p.)

The recent debate on European defence has seen important developments at the EU level, with steps taken by the High Representative/Vice President and the Commission, discussed and approved by the Council. However, its understanding cannot be separated from an analysis of national perspectives in the major EU member countries after the referendum on Brexit, namely France, Germany and Italy, which have carried on their agendas both in an intergovernmental framework and by interacting with the EU institutions.

Differentiated integration in defence: a plea for PESCO

by Sven Biscop

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

In defence, differentiated integration outside the EU framework is prevalent. Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) would allow a group of member states to deepen cooperation within the treaty. To bring real added value, PESCO must be sufficiently ambitious and make the step from cooperation to effective integration in defence. The European Defence Fund proposed by the EC could function as a strong incentive to that end, if member states' contributions to it could be matched by the Commission's own contribution. PESCO implies a change of mind-set, from national defence planning and interests to common targets.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The EU: from comprehensive vision to integrated action

by Thierry Tardy

22 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The need to coordinate the various entities and policies of the EU in the field of security and development has been acknowledged since the beginning of the Union's aspiration to play a role in world politics. With the Joint Communication on the 'EU's comprehensive approach to external conflict and crises' in 2013, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commission laid the foundations of a joined-up policy to more effectively respond to the causes and manifestations of instability. The recent EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy sought to move this forward by introducing the concept of an 'integrated approach to conflicts and crises'.

Institut français des relations internationales

The NPT and the origins of NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements

by William Alberque [@walberque](#)

7 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

Russia has recently accused the US and NATO Allies of violating the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by arguing that NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements are not permitted under the Treaty. On the contrary, the historical record shows that the text of the NPT was crafted by the US and the USSR, in close cooperation, precisely so that NATO's arrangements would be compatible with Treaty obligations – while also constraining the ability of non-nuclear states to acquire nuclear weapons. This paper shows how the US and USSR negotiated Articles I and II – the critical parts of the NPT pertaining to nuclear weapons proliferation.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

NATO as a "Nuclear Alliance": background and contemporary issues

by Leo Michel

12 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

For more than two decades following the end of Cold War, NATO pursued steps to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in its deterrence and collective defence strategy. It also sought to allay stated Russian concerns in the mid-1990s about possible changes in its nuclear posture related to the accession of new members in East and Central Europe. In recent years, however, various forms of

"nuclear saber rattling" by the Russian Federation have prompted NATO to focus new attention on nuclear issues. This new attention is part of NATO's broader effort, which relies mainly on non-nuclear capabilities and changes to NATO's conventional force posture in northern Europe, to accomplish its deterrence and collective defence objectives.

Council on Foreign Relations

Women's contributions to peace and security processes

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Empirical evidence proves the benefits of including women in conflict prevention and resolution and in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Women's participation in peace and security processes is still plagued by obstacles, including a lack of funding, cultural and safety barriers. To improve security outcomes, societies around the world should invest in the contributions that women make to preventing and resolving conflicts. Major actors, including the US and international organisations, should lead by example with more diverse delegations to peace and security processes.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

At the gate - Civil and military protection of Europe's borders

by Anne Bakker and Dick Zandee

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The migratory pressures on Europe's borders present the EU with an enormous challenge to get its act together. While the objectives and mandates of internal and external security actors increasingly overlap, these actors often still live in separated worlds. This brief analyses how the EU's border security can be strengthened through a more joined-up approach between internal and external security actors. Furthermore, it looks into how civil-military connectivity in border security can be changed from the existing ad hoc nature to more structural cooperation.

The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

The increasing threat of biological weapons - Handle with sufficient and proportionate care

by Erik Frinking, Tim Sweijts, Paul Sinning, Eva Bontje, Christopher Frattina della Frattina and Mercedes Abdalla

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

This report presents the changing dynamics of the development and use of biological weapons and the preparation against them. The dynamics relate to technological advances in biotechnology and the concomitant attraction to non-state actors to use biological agents as weapons due to their financial appeal and diverse impact. The relative ease with which biological weapons can be produced, and the intent of non-state actors to use biological weapons - based on historical precedent and recent surge in international terrorism - call for a renewed focus on this field and an increased effort to respond to these developments.

Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques

Engaging interreligious peacebuilding agencies and policy makers in responding to conflicts: beyond the rhetoric

by Mohammed Abu-Nimer

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The recent polarisation in many parts of the world has motivated policy makers and religious institutions to take the potential constructive role that religion and its various agencies have in responding to violent extremism more seriously. This paper acknowledges the importance of the recent mutual collaboration and outreach to interreligious and intrareligious agencies of peace and dialogue by policy makers. According to the author, this can indeed develop into an historical shift in national and global strategies of responding to social, economic, and political problems, especially if interreligious peacebuilding agencies are capable of sustaining their efforts and engaging wider audiences.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

Multi-Order - Clingendael Strategic Monitor 2017

by Kars de Bruijne [@KarsdeBruijne](#), Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.) and in [Dutch](#) (33 p.)

What will our world look like in 2021? How will the world order develop in the coming period? Who will be the most important players? This monitor analyses the increasing threats, but also the simultaneously continuing cooperation. In this regard, the authors speak of a multi-order: a highly diverse system in which cooperation takes place in entirely different ways in separate domains. This monitor is based on [ten different thematic studies](#). Every thematic study concentrates on the estimated threat and the state of the international order within a specific theme.

Bruegel

Europe in a new world order

by Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#), André Sapir and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

17 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The US is the EU's most important trade and bilateral investment partner, which has, until now, supported a multilateral trade system, European integration and provided a security guarantee. But the new US administration seems intent on replacing multilateralism with bilateral deals. In trade, it aims to secure new trade deals in order to reduce bilateral trade deficits and to protect. In climate policy, the US commitment to the Paris Agreement is being questioned. In defence, the security umbrella appears less certain than previously. In this paper, the authors consider what the EU's strategic reaction should be to US diminishing giant policies, and the EU's role in a world of declining hegemony and shifting balances.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

The developmental state in the 21st Century - Calling for a new social contract

by Giulio Regeni and Georgeta Vidican Auktor

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

The 'developmental state' is a highly debated notion in development literature, having evolved from the extraordinary experience of late industrialising countries in East Asia. In this paper, the authors argue that changing global conditions call for a revitalisation of the debate on the role of the state in social and economic transformation in the 21st century. They focus on three main global challenges for economic development in the 21st century: climate change and environmental degradation; increased digitalisation and changed policy space for individual states as a result of globalisation.

The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

Volatility and friction in the age of disintermediation - HCSS StratMon 2016-2017 Annual Report

by Stephan De Spiegeleire, Tim Sweijs, Frank Bekkers, Iuliia Solodovnik, Nicholas Farnham, Yulia Aleshchenkova, Koen van Lieshout, Christopher Frattina, Tariq Zaidi, Barin Kayaoğlu, Sijbren de Jong [@Sijbren deJong](#), Mercedes Abdalla, Jibek Imanalieva, Hannes Rõõs, Willem Theo Oosterveld and Willem Bloem

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (129 p.)

Events unfolded once again at a swirling pace in 2016. The current volatility is not a coincidence, but rather the result of fundamental disturbances of the global order. Most mainstream explanations of recent turbulence focus on power transitions, the concomitant return to more aggressive forms of power politics, and a backlash against globalisation. Many of the explanations ignore one of the most striking trends that is reshaping the dynamics of power: the ongoing process of disintermediation. The report analyses global trends in confrontation, cooperation and conflict based on different datasets. The report also contains case studies on Turkey, Moldova and the rise and fall of IS.

Transparency International

Connecting the dots: building the case for open data to fight corruption

by Jon Vrush [@jonvrushi](#) and Robin Hodess [@RobinHodess](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

The paper makes the case for using open data to strengthen anti-corruption efforts and provides a set of recommendations for further action. It completes a series of papers assessing the extent to which [France](#), [Brazil](#), [Germany](#), [Indonesia](#) and [South Africa](#) are meeting their commitments to fighting corruption by applying and implementing the principles and actions set out in the G20 Principles, which were adopted as a first step towards leveraging open data as a crucial tool to enable a culture of transparency and accountability in order to address corruption.

TERRORISM

European Parliament Think Tank

The European Union's policies on counter-terrorism: relevance, coherence and effectiveness

by Wim Wensink, Bas Warmenhoven [@baswarmenhoven](#), Roos Haasnoot, Rob Wesselink, Bibi van Ginkel [@bibivanginkel](#), Stef Wittendorp, Christophe Paulussen [@chpaulussen](#), Wybe Douma [@WybeDouma](#), Bérénice Boutin [@bereniceboutin](#), Onur Güven and Thomas Rijken

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (224 p.)

This study identifies (counter-) terrorism trends, threats and policies in the EU, focusing particularly on seven themes, including database access and interoperability, measures on border security, criminal justice and prevention of radicalisation. It also analyses the coherence and effectiveness of the counter-terrorism policy (architecture), and issues of cooperation, oversight and implementation, in particular of seven focus member states: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain. Moreover, this study addresses future scenarios and formulates concrete policy options and recommendations.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Public opinion survey data to measure sympathy and support for Islamist terrorism: A look at Muslim opinions on Al Qaeda and IS

by Alex P. Schmid

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

This paper notes that opinion polls can be helpful in gauging (verbal) support for terrorism but also finds that the questions asked in opinion polls are generally lacking precision while the answers are often influenced by political pressures. When translating (generally low) percentages of sympathy and support for al Qaeda and so-called Islamic State in various countries into actual population figures, it emerges that there is a sizeable radical milieu in both Muslim-majority countries and in Western Muslim diasporas, held together by the world wide web of the internet. Better instruments are needed to measure sympathy and support for jihadist terrorism in order to inform counter-terrorist strategies.

War by suicide: a statistical analysis of the Islamic State's martyrdom industry

by Charlie Winter [@charliewinter](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

This paper explores the Islamic State's use of suicide tactics over the course of 12 months – from 1 December 2015 to 30 November 2016. It uses a sample of the group's suicide operation reports as a window into the tactical and strategic underpinnings of its martyrdom industry. The paper demonstrates that IS's present approach towards suicide bucks past trends. Instead of predominantly being carried out by foreigners against civilian targets, as was the case in Iraq in the 2000s, its suicide attacks are now primarily perpetrated by local operatives against military targets. This reflects a new phase of operationalisation for suicide warfare; a tactical shift with strategic implications that will change the insurgent and terrorist landscape.

Center for the Study of Democracy

Situational assessment of extremist trends

by Rositsa Dzhekova [@RosiDzhekova](#), Ludek Moravec, Pavlína Bláhová, Jan Ludvík Libor Stejskal, Dia Anagnostou and Dimitris Skleparis

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

Violent extremism is one of the major challenges Europe is currently facing. The threat is both external as well as internal as indicated by the rise in home-grown Islamist terrorists, as well as of nationalistic and anti-immigrant movements and far-right aggression. An accurate picture of the spread, nature and trends in the extremist and terrorist activity and actors is paramount to formulating strategic policy approaches and effectively allocating available resources. This publication provides a methodological framework for the establishment of a viable mechanism for monitoring and assessment of the state and developments over time in extremist acts and actors on the national level.

Danish Institute for International Studies

The trouble with counter-narratives

by Ann-Sophie Hemmingsen and Karin Ingrid Castro Møller

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.)

Counter-narratives are routinely suggested as responses to the vast amounts of propaganda available online, from groups such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda; and the idea of using them to prevent terrorism is gaining momentum. International organisations such as the EU and UN are including them in their countering violent extremism (CVE) strategies, leading to a push for member states to do the same, in spite of a great deal of criticism and lack of any actual evidence that counter-narratives are an effective method. This report explores the challenges related to using counter-narratives within the Danish preventive framework in particular and in CVE strategies in general.

Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg)

Hotels as targets of jihadist terror: an empirical analysis of the period from 1970 to 2016

by Adrien Delafontaine

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (59 p.)

Hotels are particularly desirable sites for terrorist activity, because of their fixed locations, constant activity, and easy access. However, hotels are reluctant to take protective measures because they are constrained by the aim of making guests feel welcome. The literature in hotel terrorism research contains only a handful of studies that actually rely on a database of hotel attacks. This study is the first of its kind to use a large-N database to address this gap. The data are processed via an "empirical analytical" method in order to identify key patterns over time and across regions. The results are then divided into three parts: the evolution of terrorism from 1970 to 2016; the countries of occurrence; and the degree of violence of jihadist and non-jihadist terrorist attacks.

TRADE

Fondation Robert Schuman

The slowing in world trade: a structural break, the cause of uncertainty

by Sébastien Jean

13 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.) and in [French](#) (5 p.)

As the financial crisis of 2008-2009 fades into the past, it is increasingly clear that world trade has slowed both structurally and for the long term. This was not immediately evident because the crisis affected trade very badly. Hence the volume of the trade in goods and services made a vigorous recovery in 2010, with growth of nearly 13%, whilst world GDP increased by 4.1%. After this roller coaster ride it might have seemed natural to recover pre-crisis trends, and when the growth of trade proved relatively slow, it was initially interpreted as an economic hazard. Yet the years are passing and over the last five years the forecasts put forward by international organisations, as WTO, IMF and the World Bank are systematically too optimistic.

OPC Policy Center

Will America trigger a global trade war?

by Uri Dadush

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

President Trump called for "America First" and for "Buy American, Hire American" in his inaugural speech and his subsequent actions dispelled any remaining doubt that he meant what he said during the election campaign. As promised, he has withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, he has threatened American companies that invest abroad with punitive taxes and tariffs. He has signed an executive order to build a wall along the Mexican border, and he has threatened Mexico to impose a tax on its exports to the US to pay for it. This note will evaluate the likelihood that Mr Trump's policies will trigger a resurgence of protectionist policies in the US and throughout the world.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Are we facing a new international trading system? Reflecting on Trump and the new wave of protectionism

by Nicolas Albertoni [@N_Albertoni](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

In international relations as in many other areas of study, we normally define a system as an assemblage of parts, units, and objects integrated by some form of regular interaction. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is an example. But what happens with that system when some of its parts and units change? Or, when new actors try to upset some of the fundamental notions and norms of that system? It's clear that a new wave of protectionism is likely next. The WTO may be our best hope for avoiding a trade war. This article aims to discuss this 'international system' debate from the perspective of the new dynamics of the international trading system.

DEVELOPMENT

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Acercar los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible a la ciudadanía - el compromiso de Europa con la Agenda 2030

by José Antonio Alonso and Anna Ayuso [@AyusoAnna](#) (coords.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (88 p.)

This publication puts an emphasis on the analysis of how to involve different actors in the joint commitment required for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More than a year after its approval by 193 countries, there is a period of uncertainty about the strength of the commitment of the leaders of some countries. Hence, ensuring the support of society is essential so that the SDGs must now become a reality for all the inhabitants of our planet. This publication does not seek to cover the entire content of a broad and ambitious agenda such as the SDGs, but reflection is needed regarding its significance and the opportunities and challenges involved.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

The concept of SDG-sensitive development cooperation - Implications for OECD-DAC members

by Alexandra Rudolph

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

Since September 2015, the world has had a sustainable development agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goes beyond a traditional development agenda and represents a multidimensional approach to development, with the implementation of the values of the Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This paper addresses the question of how to shape SDG-sensitive development cooperation in line with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda. It analyses the agenda in detail and distils the basic principles (universality and indivisibility) in order to recommend how development cooperation might be adjusted to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in partner countries.

Friends of Europe

Sustainable tourism for development

by Shada Islam [@shada_islam](#) and Amanda Rohde

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

With more than 1.6 billion people travelling around the world each year, tourism has become a powerful and transformative force. It makes a genuine difference to the lives of millions of people, supporting jobs worldwide. In this International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, Friends of Europe has created a factsheet highlighting the huge potential of tourism for driving sustainable development – as well as how badly-managed tourism can have hugely negative effects on the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage.

Global Public Policy Institute

Harmonizing donor reporting

by Erica Gaston

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

The World Humanitarian Summit set ambitious targets to maximize existing resources in critical, emergency situations, including harmonising and streamlining donor reporting. Donors and aid organisations have committed to significant, but achievable harmonisation measures by the end of 2018, including reducing volume, developing a common report structure and increasing the efficiency of reporting. To support the implementation of those commitments, this study analyses existing processes to identify factors leading to reporting inefficiency and opportunities for harmonization.

NewClimate Institute for Climate Policy and Global Sustainability / Germanwatch

Innovative financing for the Adaptation Fund: pathways and potentials

by Carsten Warnecke, Ritika Tewari, Sönke Kreft and Niklas Höhne [@niklashoehne](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

This new report explores the potential of seven innovative climate finance options to meet the financing needs of the [Adaptation Fund](#). It concludes that if implemented in a collective manner, these can provide a steady and predictable stream of finance for the Fund. However, the Adaptation Fund Board needs to proactively engage with relevant decision makers, following a dynamic resource mobilisation strategy. Potential engagement pathways for each option are discussed as well.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The nexus between enlargement and differentiation

by Barbara Lippert

7 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This paper explores the nexus between enlargement and differentiated integration set against the background of past experiences and in view of the future of European integration. Although it considers convergence and not differentiated integration to be the underlying concept of enlargement, it also shows that the EU's enlargement policy involves instruments which allow differentiated treatment. Analysing the previous rounds of enlargement, the EU system appears to have been robust, coping with temporarily increased degrees of differentiation. However, the author argues against developing new forms of partial membership which would give outsiders a say in decision making.

Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı (Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

What can Turkey's sovereign wealth fund do with this portfolio?

by Emin Dedeoğlu

16 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

The Turkish Sovereign Wealth Fund (TWF) has recently been subject of public discussion since its establishment in August 2016. The National Lottery, games of chance and horse racing were placed in the Fund since. On 5 February, the subject came up again when some public lands as well as public securities were added to the fund. The public shares in Turkish Airlines and Halk Bank, previously under the Privatisation Administration, are the most notable additions.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Centre for European Policy Studies

President Dodon's visit to Brussels – Contemplating economic suicide

by Michael Emerson [@Michael12540](#) and Denis Cenuşa

3 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The newly elected President of Moldova, Igor Dodon, made his first visit to Brussels on 7 February, following his first visit to Moscow in January, where he announced his wish to repeal his country's Association Agreement with the EU and to join the Eurasian Economic Union instead. While this cannot happen until and unless the parliamentary elections in 2018 return a parliamentary majority supporting his Socialist party, his statement has already inflicted damage by creating strategic uncertainty over Moldova's European orientation. In this paper, the authors express incredulity that he would risk committing economic suicide for his country in exchange for closer relations with Russia.

College of Europe

The EU advisory - Mission Ukraine: normative or strategic objectives?

by Marikki Rieppola

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.)

In December 2014 EU deployed a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission in Ukraine. The mandate of the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM) was originally two years, but it has been extended until November 2017. This paper examines to what extent EUAM has been successful from the EU's perspective. It does so by assessing to what extent the mission has achieved its (explicit) normative objectives and (implicit) strategic objectives. The paper argues that the mission has contributed to the EU's strategic objectives by shaping the milieu in Ukraine but it has been less successful in advancing the EU's normative objectives.

Міжнародний центр перспективних досліджень (International Centre for Policy Studies)

International peacekeeping and the war in Eastern Ukraine: are there any points of contact? Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the settlement of the "Ukrainian conflict"

by Vasyl Filipchuk, Anatoliy Oktysiuk and Yevgeniy Yaroshenko

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

Two years have passed since the Minsk agreements were approved. The agreements were endorsed by the [UN Security Council Resolution 2202](#) on 17 February 2015 as a tool of conflict resolution in eastern Ukraine. Minsk-2 contributed to de-escalation of the conflict and suspension of full-scale fighting, but not to the conflict settlement. If the Minsk agreements remain as a "no-alternative-mechanism" for conflict settlement in the east of Ukraine, their implementation will require new, additional instruments which are prescribed by the Minsk agreements, but do not contradict to them. The introduction of the International Interim Administration (IIA) under the UN auspices in the non-controlled territories can be one of such innovative tools for the conflict settlement in Donbas. IIA can become acceptable to all conflict parties and a 'model' of the Minsk agreements implementation and restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty over certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche

Energy tariff reform in Ukraine: estimated effects and policy options

by Vasily Astrov and Leon Podkaminer

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

Energy sector reforms have for a long time been viewed as one of the most important challenges facing Ukraine. The most visible manifestation of reforms so far has been the steep hikes in energy tariffs for households to 'market' levels, above all for natural gas and central heating. This study assesses the impact of the recent energy tariff reform on residential energy consumption and the financial standing of Naftogaz (and the government at large), and assesses various policy options, partly drawing on the earlier experience of other Central and East European countries in the area of energy sector reforms.

Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg)

Status-neutral security, confidence-building and arms control measures in the Georgian context

by Sergi Kapanadze, Ulrich Kühn, Wolfgang Richter and Wolfgang Zellner

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.)

Territorial conflicts in South-eastern Europe have hampered the implementation of international agreements on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in disputed territories under the effective control of *de facto* regimes. These grey areas have resulted in uncertainties about the capabilities and activities of irregular and stationed forces, produced unchecked risk perceptions and aggravated sub-regional instability and insecurity. This paper discusses the limitations of existing international arms control and CSBM agreements and outlines, a status-neutral approach towards increasing security and stability in and around disputed territories.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

A house divided - Political relations and coalition-building between Iraq's Shi'a

by Erwin van Veen [@erwinveen](#), Nick Grinstead [@nick_grins](#) and Floor El Kamouni-Janssen
February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

The Islamic State will be ousted from Mosul in the near future. When this happens, the challenges of reconciliation and post-conflict governance between Iraq's Sunni, Shi'a and Kurds will move to the heart of the country's political agenda. The report's main finding is that Iraq's Shi'a political elites are unlikely to develop an inclusive deal for the country with its Sunni and Kurds. This does not bode well for Iraq's future unity. The report can be read as a call for action to address the problems of political representation, coalition building and exercise of public authority.

Turning the tide - The politics of irregular migration in the Sahel and Libya

by Fransje Molenaar [@innandup](#) and Floor El Kamouni-Janssen
February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (80 p.)

This report analyses the relationship between irregular migration and conflict and stability in Mali, Niger and Libya. Studying the human smuggling networks that operate within and across these three countries provides insights into the transnational dynamics of irregular migration as well as these networks' interaction with local, national and regional political and economic dynamics. The report's main finding is that current EU policies are misaligned with the reality of trans-Saharan migration as they do not take into account the diversity of intra-African migration.

The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Financing renewable electricity in the resource-rich countries of the Middle East and North Africa: A review

by Joel Krupa and Rahmatallah Poudineh
13 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

Renewables in the resource-rich countries of the Middle East and North Africa are inconsequential contributors to regional total primary energy supply. However, recent project developments and overt support from a range of influential regional actors suggest a general trend towards a more environmentally sustainable electricity supply. This trend is driven just as much by economics as other factors. Finance is an especially important consideration in this transition, yet it receives insufficient coverage. This paper seeks to remedy this deficiency of academic inquiry.

Centre for European Reform

The EU and Libya: realism or irrelevance

by Luigi Scazzieria
3 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

According to the author, Europe cannot view Libya only through the lens of migration. It needs to stabilise the country, brokering a compromise between different factions. As violence increases and humanitarian conditions worsen, time is running out.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Au-delà de pays d'origine - Etude: schémas migratoires en Algérie, au Maroc et en Tunisie

by Katharina Natter

February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (45 p.)

European media coverage of migrations in the Maghreb has many shortcomings. First of all, the fact that migration in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia is by no means a new phenomenon, but part of several centuries of mobility in the Sahara and in the Mediterranean, is often overlooked. Furthermore, these countries are generally represented as an homogeneous bloc and historical and national differences between them are not taken into consideration. Finally, the political perspective and interests of the Maghreb countries on migration are largely ignored. In order to develop reasonable public policies, it is imperative to conceive migration as a structural component of social, economic and political transformations in countries of origin and destination.

International Crisis Group

Yemen's al-Qaeda: expanding the base

2 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (36 p.)

The Yemeni branch of al-Qaeda (AQ) is stronger than it has ever been. As the country's civil war has escalated and become regionalised, its local franchise, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), is thriving in an environment of state collapse, growing sectarianism, security vacuums and a burgeoning war economy. Reversing this trend requires securing an overarching political settlement that has buy-in from the country's diverse constituencies, including Sunni Islamists. As this will take time, steps must be taken to contain AQAP's growth: improving governance in vulnerable areas, disaggregating Sunni Islamist groups and using military tools judiciously and in coordination with local authorities.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Gender, intersectionality and youth civic and political engagement. An analysis of the meso-level factors of youth exclusion/inclusion in the South and East Mediterranean (SEM) region

by Ruba Salih, Lynn Welchman and Elena Zambelli

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This paper contains a discussion of how gender, sexuality, class and race interplay, are enabling or obstructing different pathways and modalities of youth civic and political engagement in the countries of the South-Eastern Mediterranean (SEM) region which are part of the Power2Youth project (in alphabetical order: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey). It is based on the key research findings contained in the meso-level country papers prepared by Power2Youth partners.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Christen in Syrien: Aktuelle Lage und Perspektiven

by Otmar Oehring

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (30 p.)

Syria is a secular country, which guarantees freedom of religion. Even if this has never been the case, Christians in Syria could live their faith without massive problems until 2010. Many Church leaders hope that this remains so. The civil war has already claimed more than 500,000 victims,

6.5 million Syrians are made into internal refugees and there are almost 5 million refugees. The number of Christians has decreased by at least 50%. They fled before the war, the regime, the Islamists. Will they return to Syria after the end of the conflict?

La Vie des Idées

Jordan and Syrian refugees

by Kamel Dorai

20 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

While the spotlight is focused on the arrival of Syrian refugees in Europe, the author reminds us that the main countries concerned are primarily those in the region. Jordan is among the countries that has received the highest number of Syrians, sharpening economic and social tensions in a country already gripped by the presence of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

Regards sur l'Eurasie - L'année politique 2016

by Anne de Tinguy (ed.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (59 p.)

This publication suggests several keys of understanding of the events and phenomena which mark the evolution of the post-soviet region which has been experiencing deep transformations after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. The study has a transversal approach and aims at identifying the regional dynamics in all its complexity.

AFRICA

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Ghana's elections – Regional implications and lessons from electoral peace structures and processes

by Miriam Juan-Torres [@miriamitg](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

In a politically tumultuous 2016 worldwide, Ghana stands out as the country that successfully managed to conduct presidential and parliamentary elections and peacefully emerge from a tense and complicated electoral campaign. After the elections in Uganda, Gambia and Gabon, the elections in Ghana became even more relevant for democratic beliefs in the continent. The locus of praise and, most importantly, of lessons to be drawn from Ghana's elections should not solely lie in the outcome – the lack of turmoil during and after the elections – but in the process – how turmoil was avoided. This country, touted as a beacon for democracy, is usually considered to be the example to follow.

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

Food price shocks and government expenditure composition: evidence from African countries

by Carine Meyimdjui

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

This paper attempts to evaluate the effect of food price shocks on public expenditure in level and composition on 47 African countries between 1980 and 2011. After solving for endogeneity issues, results show that food price shocks positively and significantly affect total government expenditure and the share of current government consumption in the total government expenditure. More precisely, an additional standard deviation of the food price shock increase is associated to an increase of 0.06 standard deviation of the percentage of current government consumption in the total government expenditure. Interestingly, this effect highly depends on the vulnerability level.

College of Europe

A bureaucratic bias? EU election observation missions in Africa: between independence and development industry

by Martin Ronceray

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

This paper develops a framework which conceptualises Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) as 'dealers of legitimacy' in a foreign political marketplace, due to their ability to endorse or condemn (parts of) electoral processes. This role of EOMs gives a particular importance to the question of their independence: can they be subjected to interferences, why and through which processes? This paper develops the argument of a 'bureaucratic bias' of a donor and democracy promoter, which accounts for some of the breaches of EOM independence. This bias is linked to the conditionality of development aid and the possibility of its suspension in case the government in power loses too much international legitimacy – to which a negative EOM report contributes. Policy recommendations include a modification of the final phases of the EOM.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

South Africa's missed chance at the African Union

by Arnold Wehmhoerner

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

On 30 January 2017 at Addis Ababa the Foreign Minister of Chad, Moussa Faki Mahamat, was elected as chairman of the African Union Commission. He replaces the South African Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma who declined to stand for a second four year term. Despite South Africa's rough campaign to get Dlamini-Zuma elected, once she was in office South Africa had the unique chance to prove to the continent that it is willing to lead and to take responsibility. Dlamini-Zuma's refusal to stand for a usually normal second term confirmed the unconcern of South Africa in increasing its responsibility for the continent.

International Crisis Group

Niger and Boko Haram: beyond counter-insurgency

by International Crisis Group

25 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (39 p.)

For the last two years, Niger has been at war with Boko Haram. The conflict has disrupted the country's development, especially public finances, and destabilised the south east, the main scene of armed clashes. In this region, located some 1,350km from the capital and faced with an economic collapse, the battle against Boko Haram has stoked up local intercommunal tensions and exacerbated violence over access to resources. Faced with Boko Haram's resilience, the government can no longer restrict itself to an approach solely based on military operations and commercial restrictions. In December 2016, the establishment of demobilisation sites signalled a change in the policy of repression that had prevailed since 2015. With the support of regional and international partners, it must continue in this direction and expand its counter-insurgency strategy that goes beyond a mainly military response.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Can Modi make the elephant dance?

by Murali Nair

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [German](#) (8 p.)

Narendra Modi captured India's imagination by promising rapid economic and social development and won the 2014 elections hands down. His commendable plan to transform India's welfare system and bring in sustainable development through radical market-driven reforms is, however, challenged by infrastructure bottlenecks and the realities of rural India. In this paper, the author looks at the social policies of the Modi government. He argues that the reality of non-urban India lacking basic infrastructure and human development, but still constituting more than half of India's population, is an acid test for Modi's plan to make India leapfrog into the 21st century.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Perspectives Asia: politics of food

by Katrin Altmeyer, Jost Pachaly, Thorsten Volberg, Julia Behrens and Fabian Heppe (ed.)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

Asia's rapid economic development in the last two decades fundamentally altered the patterns of food consumption and availability for large parts of Asian societies. Despite the growth in wealth and the correlating increase in calorie intake, many governments still have difficulties providing food security to large portions of the population. Impressive growth rates and the rise of metropolises cannot hide the fact that Asia remains home to three-fifths of the world's undernourished people, amounting to 512 million adults and children that consume too few calories. This wide range of topics shows that food politics in Asia has become more than simply a matter of production and distribution.

La Vie des Idées

The thwarted flows of Bengal - Reflections on the India-Bangladesh border

by Samuel Berthet

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [French](#) (13 p.)

The border between Bangladesh and India has created an artificial rift within a space connected by intense circulations. Thrown into illegality, the many migrants who continue to circulate between the two States face heightened risks of exploitation and increasing marginalisation.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

The rise of Trump and its global implications – Japan and India: deepening ties in age of uncertainty

by Tan Ming Hui and Nazia Hussain

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The largely successful bilateral summit between Japan and the US points to the ability of the longstanding alliance to ride out a few diplomatic storms. However, lingering uncertainties highlight the need for Japan to continue to diversify its alliances and partnerships. India seems to be its natural choice.

Challenging the state: Pakistani militants form deadly alliance

by James M. Dorsey and Azaz Syed

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The recent suicide bombing of a popular Sufi shrine in Sindh is the latest operation of a recently formed alliance of militant jihadist and sectarian groups that includes Islamic State (IS) and organisations associated with the Pakistani Taliban.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Große Statussorgen um kleine Inseln: Militärische Symbolpolitik im Süd- und Ostchinesischen Meer

by Christian Becker

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (31 p.)

The territorial conflicts in the South and East China Sea have become problems of international politics. Japan and the US are now demanding solidarity from their Western partners in their dealings with the People's Republic of China. Beijing, on the other hand, increasingly uses its weight to prevent unfavourable positioning, for example, of the EU countries. All parties involved in the conflicts operate military symbolic politics with considerable escalation potential.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Latin America at a crossroads

by Antonella Mori and Loris Zanatta

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (131 p.)

The "golden age" for Latin America inaugurated with the turn of the new millennium seems a faint memory. Economies that had grown at a steady pace are now slowing down, while some are in freefall. Politically, the "pink tide" of populist movements is now ebbing. Political and social turmoil are heralding an era of changes and – maybe – of new opportunities for Latin America. The writers scratch beneath the surface of Latin America's current crisis to have a clearer glimpse of what the future holds and draw policy recommendations, especially for the EU.

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Decade of reform: Ecuador's macroeconomic policies, institutional changes, and results

by Mark Weisbrot, Jake Johnston and Lara Merling

10 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

Over the last decade, the Ecuadorian government has instituted a series of financial and regulatory reforms that proved to be important when the economy was hit with severe external shocks. The government used a number of innovative policies and as a result Ecuador was able to achieve economic and social progress, as well as political stability. The experience of Ecuador over the past decade indicates that a government of a relatively small, lower-middle income developing country is less restricted by the global economy, or "globalisation", than is commonly believed.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Narcotráfico en la región Caribe

by Luis Fernando Trejos Rosero

February 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (16 p.)

The Caribbean region of Colombia has been a region traditionally used by members of mafias, due to its privileged coastal and border condition, as a strategic point for the export of drugs and the entry of weapons and chemical inputs, in the midst of a very tolerant local and national social context in the face of smuggling and money laundering from drug trafficking. The writer identifies the illegal armed actors who have made a presence in the region and its criminal dynamics, especially the control of the routes, collection centres and cocaine hydrochloride export points.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Kuba "aktualisiert" sein Wirtschaftsmodell: Perspektiven für die Zusammenarbeit mit der EU

by Evita Schmieg

February 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (32 p.)

After the end of the Ice Age in the relation to the US during the Obama era, Cuba is striving to become more involved in international economic relations and update its national economic model through its "Guidelines", adopted in 2011. Important objectives are to increase its own exports, to create import substitution and to attract more foreign direct investment. Against this backdrop,

Cuba is also keen to strengthen economic relations and political dialogue with the EU, the country's most important trade partner, alongside Venezuela.

CHINA

European Institute for Security Studies

China's road: into Eastern Europe

by Michal Makocki

15 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The EU and its eastern partners have found themselves among the focal points of China's ambitious economic project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to revive economic, cultural and political exchanges along the ancient Silk Road. Given their geographical location at the crossroads of Eurasian routes, eastern Europe and the Caucasus are expecting to benefit from substantial infrastructure investments and new commercial opportunities. For the EU, China's endeavour to establish new economic corridors in the region covered by the block's Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy, poses both opportunities and challenges.

China and Russia: an Eastern partnership in the making?

by Nicu Popescu and Michal Makocki

15 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.)

This article sets out to evaluate the scope and the actual implementation of the 'pivot to the East' announced by Moscow in the wake of its confrontation with the West over Ukraine. In particular, it dwells on the 'pivot within the pivot' represented by Russia-China relations and highlights the areas of convergence and divergence between Moscow and Beijing, the asymmetries in interests and resources, and their wider implications for Russia's policy in Asia – thus providing an insightful and balanced assessment of bilateral relations and their 'systemic' impact.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung / Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

The Silk Road Economic Belt - Considering security implications and EU-China cooperation prospects

by Richard Ghiasy and Jiayi Zhou

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

The Belt, a programme for security in the context of China's own evolving security interests and aspirations includes two selected regions that are integral to the Belt's vision and road map: Central and South Asia. However, there are certain questions on the compatibility of the Belt with the EU's foreign and security interests, such as the domains in which the EU could possibly engage in cooperation with China and regional actors within the context of the Belt.

Institut de relations Internationales et Stratégiques

Belgrade-Pékin : quand la Chine se positionne au cœur de l'Europe

by Barthélémy Courmont and Arta Seiti

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (18 p.)

Often perceived as the revival of the Silk Road, the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative introduced in 2013 by Xi Jinping knocks near Europe. This paper shows how, through massive investments, this project also reaches the heart of the old continent.

RUSSIA

European Policy Centre

Russia's nuclear energy diplomacy in the Middle East: why the EU should take notice

by Marco Giuli

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Russia is hardly a new player in the energy sector of the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). But in the wake of the aftermath of the Arab Spring and the Russian military intervention in Syria, Russia's nuclear energy diplomacy has received a new impetus in the region. However, despite several complementarity factors between Moscow's political and commercial interests and those of several MENA leaders, a transactional political environment and uncertain market dynamics complicate the prospects for long-term energy deals that require huge investments and thus it is up to Europe, and in its own interest, to offer a better vision for the region's energy future.

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

The Russian web in the Mediterranean region

by Andrea Beccaro and Anna Sophie Maass

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Nowadays, the Mediterranean region's balance of power is challenged by several conflicts and actors. Russia has taken advantage of this complex and fluid situation, becoming a key actor, expanding its military involvement, and building up political relationships. A key step in this process since September 2015 has been Russian involvement in the Syrian conflict which despite being a surprising development, it is nonetheless consistent with Russia's regional interests and its renewed foreign policy.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Russia's best enemy. Russian policy towards the United States in Putin's era

by Marek Menkiszak [@MarekMenkiszak](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.) and in [Polish](#) (55 p.)

Relations between Russia and the US are characterised by an asymmetry. Russia is too weak to be recognised by the US as an equal partner or opponent and it has hardly anything to offer the US in a positive sense, apart from possibly limiting the negative impacts of its policies on Washington's interests. In the most likely scenario, the traditional pattern will again be repeated with Donald Trump's new administration. However, that does not mean that Russia will inevitably suffer a strategic defeat, as Moscow may take advantage of the further weakening of the US and the West.

Painful adaptation - The social consequences of the crisis in Russia

by Jan Strzelecki [@JanStrzelecki](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.) and in [Polish](#) (25 p.)

The Russian economy has experienced what has proven to be the most painful crisis for society since Vladimir Putin became President of the Russian Federation for the first time. The crisis has worsened the financial situation of all classes of Russian society, impacted the standards of living and led to the pursuit of physical survival in a situation of poverty and extreme poverty. Under such

circumstances, the government's tactic aimed at minimising the likelihood of protests mainly involves stepping up the repressive nature of the system and bolstering official propaganda.

The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Russian oil production outlook to 2020

by James Henderson and Ekaterina Grushevenko

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

Russian oil production accelerated rapidly towards the end of 2016 and it is expected to continue growing to 2020. Confidence in this outcome is supported by the benefits of rouble devaluation and the flexible tax regime, which have protected Russian oil companies from the worst of the oil price fall. Therefore, it would seem that, barring another collapse in the oil price or a further tightening of sanctions, the longer term outlook for Russian oil production remains rather more positive than many would have imagined.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The Russian economy in focus: recovery is further away than some might think

by Vladimir Milov

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

This paper looks at recent trends in the Russian economy after more than two years of recession. It analyses the fundamental reasons for the current economic crisis and argues against some of the mainstream views on 'the end of the recession' and the role of Western financial sanctions.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

European Political Strategy Centre

The Trump Presidency Policy: Outlook, scenarios and possible implications for the EU

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

A political hurricane has swept over Washington DC since Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the US of America on 20 January 2017. Many have engaged in the fierce political debates and demonstrations that have trailed President Trump's early decisions. Yet, irrespective of their immediate anxieties, Europeans need to take a step back from the noise and concentrate on the issues that are of strategic importance to the EU and its member states.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

What America's economy first means for Europe

by Philipp Liesenhoff and Peter Sparding

15 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The election of Donald Trump in November 2016 has raised significant questions about the future direction of US economic policy and its potential impact on Europe. As a result, the outlook for transatlantic cooperation on economic matters has changed dramatically. The only certainty seems to be that President Trump views international economic relations largely as a zero-sum game in which he has promised to put "America first" going forward.

Center for a New American Security

Defining moment. The future of the transatlantic security relationship

by Julianne Smith [@Julie_C_Smith](#) and Rachel Rizzo [@RachelRizzo](#)

1 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The bond between the US and Europe is a complex web of multinational institutions underpinned by bilateral relationships between states, which makes in-depth cooperation and coordination difficult at times. Given the rise of populism in the EU and the UK's historic vote to leave the EU, history's tide seems to be against the EU, and many internal external forces will continue to threaten its success unless European leaders act now to turn the tide in their favour.

Focused engagement. A new way forward in Afghanistan

by Christopher D. Kolenda

15 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

The war in Afghanistan was a topic largely absent from the 2016 US presidential election. The status quo there is unsustainable, beset by a resilient but brutal Taliban insurgency. The US has spent more in assistance to Afghanistan than it did for the Marshall Plan. That support, however, has made many Afghan elites fabulously rich and inspired Afghan officials and warlords to support insurgent groups that kill American soldiers. The most realistic prospect for a favourable and durable outcome is a gradual peace process that respects the dignity and sacrifices of Americans and Afghans and prevents the return of terror safe-havens.

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Economic policy in the Trump era

by Dean Baker [@DeanBaker13](#)

28 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

The debate on economic policy in the US and elsewhere is typically framed as one between conservatives who like the market and progressives who favour a large role for government. While the likelihood for much progress in this direction at the national level during the Trump administration seems minimal, there will be opportunities in states where progressives still have substantial political power. Reversing protectionist measures can directly benefit the people adopting them and lead to a massive upward redistribution and ensure everyone a decent quality of life.

Centre for transatlantic relations

The transatlantic economy 2017

by Daniel S. Hamilton [@DanSHamilton](#) and Joseph P. Quinlan

23 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (112 p.) and to the [executive summary](#) (8 p.)

Despite transatlantic political turbulence, the US. and Europe remain each other's most important markets. No other commercial artery in the world is as integrated. Transatlantic gaps in growth, job creation and trade all narrowed in 2016. It is the largest and wealthiest market in the world, accounting for one-third of world GDP in terms of purchasing power. Ties are particularly thick in foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio investment, banking claims, trade and affiliate sales in goods and services, mutual R&D investment, patent cooperation, technology flows, digital trade, and sales of knowledge-intensive services.

Centre international de formation européenne

The risks of Trumpism

by Anna Dimitrova

20 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

While political analysts are still struggling to imagine how the "Trump era" would look like, the term "Trumpism" has made its way not only to the forefront of media attention, but also to the core of the current public and academic debate on President Trump's unique show-off and impulsive style of politics, as well as his chaotic and reckless foreign policy strategy, or rather the lack of such. Although "Trumpism" has become a very fashionable concept, looking more closely at its different interpretations would allow us to reveal the risks which it hides and that should not be ignored.

Sino-American relations under Trump

by George N. Tzogopoulos [@Tzogopoulos](#)

9 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

The future evolution of relations between the US and China will be critical for world developments. The former – an established political and economic superpower – and the latter – an unquestionably economic colossus and rising political power – are attempting to find a *modus vivendi* which will define international relations. Optimistic scholars suggest that existing and possibly new differences will either be solved peacefully or at least not lead to any conflict in the interest of world stability. However pessimistic analysts express the view that ongoing rivalry and contradicting interests will ultimately lead to armed conflict.

Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Reinforcing the front line - U.S. defense strategy and the rise of China

by Evan Braden Montgomery

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

Amongst the closest US allies, the Asia-Pacific Region is also home to the first new great power of the twenty-first century: the People's Republic of China. Managing China's rise will not be easy. In recent years, Beijing has been modernising its military forces, raising the risk of escalation, especially with respect to territorial disputes throughout its near seas. The paper outlines the key elements of a US defence strategy for the region - one that is based on the enduring grand strategy of global leadership and engagement, but also recognises the new challenges posed by China's growing military power.

U.S. strategy for maintaining a Europe whole and free

by Eric Edelman and Whitney M. McNamara

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (68 p.)

This report outlines a number of options the US has for countering and limiting Russian political-military moves. Absent steps in this direction, the US will find it difficult to meet the challenges that Russia has managed to present to European security. The result might well be a European security order that is less stable and less conducive to national prosperity than the one experienced since the end of the Cold War.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs / Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Guiding principles for a sustainable U.S. policy toward Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia

by Eugene Rumer, Richard Sokolsky and Andrew S. Weiss

8 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Developing an effective US strategy toward Russia and its neighbours is an increasingly complex and difficult challenge. The US-Russian relationship remain largely competitive and adversarial. The challenge for Washington will be managing unavoidable tensions with Moscow while advancing American interests and staying true to US principles. The new administration should avoid fuelling unrealistic expectations of a breakthrough and instead seek incremental progress on specific topics based on a set of guiding principles.

Transatlantic Academy

The new parameters of German foreign policy

by Hans Kundnani

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

The election of Donald Trump threatens to radically change the parameters of German foreign policy that go back to the foundation of the Federal Republic in 1949. Germany has benefited from a particular configuration of the liberal international order in which the US provided security and acted as a consumer of last resort. Thus, a shift in the US foreign policy under President Trump could be an asymmetric shock that will disproportionately affect Germany.

Wake Up, Berlin! To save the Transatlantic Alliance, German foreign policy needs to change radically

by Yascha Mounk

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Under the leadership of Donald Trump, the US can no longer be considered a reliable partner to Western Europe. This poses a particular problem to Germany, which has long relied on the US to ensure its defence. But while German foreign policymakers are starting to acknowledge the extent of the challenge, they have so far refused to rethink the strategic direction of their foreign and military policy. The best response to a situation of radical uncertainty, official Berlin has been saying, is to wait and see.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Trump's supply-side energy policy and the low-carbon transition

by Paul Isbell [@SeaChangelsbell](#)

17 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Trump's 'supply-side' energy policy proposals imply only minor impact on the trajectory of renewable energy and the low carbon transition; however, his trade and foreign policies could significantly magnify such impact.

Council on Foreign Relations

Reconciling U.S.-Turkish interests in Northern Syria

by Aaron Stein [@aaronstein1](#)

13 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

Since spring 2015, Turkey has suffered a wave of high-profile terror attacks linked to the self-proclaimed Islamic State and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Turkey faces a complicated, interrelated conflict: its military operations in Syria are partly designed to counter the insurgency it faces within its borders. The linkages between the Syrian conflict and domestic Turkish security are driving internal political instability, and the outcome of the Syrian conflict will have repercussions for US-Turkey relations and US policy objectives in Syria.

Maintaining U.S. leadership on internet governance

by Megan Stifel

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

After almost two decades of overseeing the internet naming and addressing system, the US government transferred the responsibility to a coalition of industry, civil society, and government stakeholders. The US relinquished its role to demonstrate to emerging countries its commitment to significant private sector involvement in the operation of the internet. The government should collaborate with industry to enhance the internet's reliability and resilience by tackling vulnerabilities that permit foreign governments to question the current governance approach.

New America Foundation

The enemy has a voice. Understanding threats to inform smart investment in cyber defence

by Paulo Shakarian

27 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

The adoption of cyber threat intelligence technologies can alter the playing field of cybersecurity by allowing the defenders to obtain a better perspective of the threat. However, the expenses associated with such technologies and services make adoption difficult for smaller firms. Through carefully-crafted policies demonstrating their value and aligning the interests of key players, these technologies can become more widely adopted, thereby leading significant progress in cybersecurity - one that considers the voice of the enemy.

A guide to talking women, peace, and security inside the U.S. security establishment

by Heather Hurlburt, Elizabeth Weingarten and Carolina Marques de Mesquita

21 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Today, the USA face a dramatically different national security policy environment of new players, ever-higher stakes, and the need to sustain conversations about gender and security around policymaking tables and on front pages. The media environment is susceptible to change under the new US administration and such changes can alter the way that advocates, journalists, and editors should pitch, report and edit stories that discuss gender and security. In reality, policymaker media consumption habits can lead to significant gaps and distortions, so how should advocates refocus their own media and messaging efforts to help identify and rectify those gaps?

Connecting communities for regional resilience. A case study of the Silicon Valley Region

by Greta Byrum, Andy Gunn and Houman Saberi

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

Silicon Valley is home to both urban and rural vulnerable areas and diverse multilingual populations, which require different technologies and information distribution strategies. Online, offline, traditional, and next-generation information distribution and communications systems are all necessary for an interconnected and resilient region although currently communications infrastructure is uneven and fragile in places. While multiple local and county-level groups are coordinating holistic local preparedness efforts, no entity is planning for communications resilience at the regional scale.

SPECIAL FOCUS - DEMOCRACY AND POPULISM

Demos

Nothing to fear but fear itself: mapping and responding to the rising culture and politics of fear in the European Union

by Sophie Gaston [@sophgaston](#) and Peter Harrison-Evans [@Pete_H_E](#)

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (458 p.) and to the [summary report](#) (84 p.)

There is a spectre haunting Europe: a culture and politics of fear, which asserts its growing influence in myriad ways. Most visibly, in the rise of far-right populist movements, the collapse of the social contract between citizens and political institutions, and in the proliferation of authoritarian and exclusionary rhetoric. This publication is the result of a pan-European project that has sought to capture a snapshot of the ways in which fear is manifesting in the social and political climate of six different member states: the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Poland and Sweden.

Policy solutions / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

The state of populism in Europe

by Tamás Boros [@BorosTamas_PS](#), Maria Freitas [@M_TellesFreitas](#), Tibor Kadlót and Ernst Stetter [@ernststetter](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.)

This publication surveys the popularity and influence of all populist parties in the EU's 28 member states.

The state of social democratic parties in Central and Eastern Europe

by András Bíró-Nagy [@bironagyandras](#), Tibor Kadlót, Sára Lafferton and Márton Lakner

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (67 p.)

This study presents the apparent similarities and differences in the region through case studies and a comparison of social democratic parties in seven Central and Eastern European countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia). It covers the leading social democratic party of each country under review.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Le Front National face à l'obstacle du second tour

by Jérôme Jaffré

6 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (52 p.)

In the majority system which characterises the 5th French Republic, the second ballot recently changed nature. With a tri-dimensional political space, the long lasting left-right duel is no longer the absolute rule, nor even the dominant configuration. With the Front National rising in head in the first ballots, the results of the second ballot are no longer contained in those of the first one, while until now they were most of the time only confirming, even stressing the initial choice of the voters. This paper provide for an analysis of this new political configuration as if the glass ceiling which prevents the final victory of the extreme-right party would be constantly rising as its electoral progress grows.

The German Marshall Fund from the United States

The rise of the Front National: taking stock of ten years of French mainstream politics

by Martin Quencez, Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#) and Timo Lochocki [@TLochocki](#)

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

The growing influence of the Front National (FN) in French politics and the explanations for its success are playing a pivotal role in the upcoming 2017 French elections. Favourable economic and political contexts and a successful rebranding of the party are often emphasised to explain the current situation. However, the role of mainstream parties, and especially that of the two previous failed presidencies, has been largely underestimated. Even if the FN does not come to power in this election, it is likely to become the main menace in the French political system during the next presidency. Mainstream parties must understand their recent failures in order to avoid a deeper political crisis in the next five years, say the authors.

Terra Nova

Les conflits d'intérêts, nouvelle frontière de la démocratie

by Joël Moret-Bailly, Hélène Ruiz Fabri [@LN_Ruiz](#) and Laurence Scialom [@LaurenceScialom](#)

3 February 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (70 p.)

Popular mistrust towards elites did not stop rising in the last years. According to the authors, one of the reason for this mistrust is to be found in the proliferation of conflicts of interests. Learning lessons from French cases, this paper tends to draw general conclusions which are appreciable for any democracy.

Policy solutions

Political discrimination in Hungary: case studies from the Hungarian justice system, local government, media, agriculture, education and civil sector

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

This paper analyses, according to the authors, political discrimination against those Hungarians who have been opponents of the government's politics in the last few years. Although political and other types of discrimination are severely prohibited by Hungarian laws, and while freedom of expression is a right laid down in the constitution, it is not uncommon for the government to retaliate against those with opposing views. The case studies of the analysis illustrate the tools the Hungarian government uses against its own citizens, taking advantage of the fact that democratic functioning and the rule of law are often just pretences, as the government could eliminate "in time" many of the checks and balances that are supposed to protect its subjects.

Wise Europa / Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Beneath the surface of illiberalism: the recurring temptation of 'national democracy' in Poland and Hungary – with lessons for Europe

by Adam Balcer

13 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (67 p.)

In order to better understand the phenomenon of PiS in Poland and Fidesz in Hungary, the author analyses the historical trajectories of nation-building processes in both countries, the identity politics of both parties and their politics of memory. According to him, lessons that stem from these two case studies can serve as a 'warning call' for the rest of Europe.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Demokratie als Enttäuschung - Transformationserfahrungen in Ungarn

by András Bíró-Nagy [@bironagyandras](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (17 p.)

The majority of Hungarians hoped after 1989 that democracy would be their economic prosperity and social security. Rising unemployment, decreasing social mobility, greater social inequalities and the erosion of social stability made the legal parties like Fidesz easy after 2010 to change the basic democratic system of Hungary. According to the authors, the Hungarian example can serve as an important lesson for other European countries: growing inequality as well as increasing and ignored social tensions can undermine the foundations of a democracy and trigger a revolt against the elite.

Le populisme de droite en Allemagne - Un défi pour la social-démocratie

by Ralf Melzer

December 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (8 p.)

Germany, like most other European countries, faces the installation of a right-wing populist party: the Alternative for Germany (AfD). The AfD exploits potential nationalist, xenophobic and racist views among the population. Moreover, its electoral successes have their origin in the diffuse protestatory climate that is currently observed. According to the author, faced with right-wing populists, the best response of social democracy is to reactivate and assume a clear identity, to show determination and empathy in the fight against inequalities and to defend the disadvantaged, whatever their origins.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

AfD – the alternative for whom?

by Artur Ciechanowicz

10 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.) and in [Polish](#) (10 p.)

When in 2013 a group of professors of economics founded Alternative for Germany (AfD), their basic goal was to influence the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) so that it would return to its former conservative values. In about four years, the party gained an anti-immigrant and anti-Islamic profile and began to represent traditional non-voters, instead of disenchanted voters from other parties. The consequences of this revolution on the political scene have already been evident at the federal state level. The AfD's presence in state parliaments forces other parties to establish alliances against it, which consequently prevents each of these parties from delivering on their electoral promises.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

The Spanish exception: unemployment, inequality and immigration, but no right-wing populist parties

by Carmen González-Enríquez

14 February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

Very few European countries have proven immune to the appeal of right-wing populism. One of the exceptions is Spain: despite economic crisis and fast-eroding political trust, Spain has not seen any right-wing populist party obtain more than 1% of the vote in national elections in recent years.

This paper tries to explain what might explain this remarkable absence of an electorally successful Spanish right-wing populist party.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Humanitarian action and non-state armed groups: the international legal framework

by Emanuela-Chiara Gillard

February 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

This paper presents the international law framework pertaining to this issue. An important body of literature on the topic already exists, but it is a complex area of law and a degree of confusion remains, including among stakeholders. This paper sets out the key elements of the law. It starts by outlining UN Security Council sanctions regimes and relevant international counterterrorism measures, and how they have been implemented into national law, respectively. It then describes two further sources of restrictions for humanitarian actors – funding agreements and measures adopted by the banking sector.
